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GENERAL GEORGE THOMAS.

Obit August 1802 Aet 46

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MILITARY

MEMOIRS

OF

MR. GEORGE THOMAS;

WHO,

By extraordinary Talents and Enterprize,

ROSE FROM AN OBSCURE SITUATION TO THE RANK OF

A GENERAL,

IN THE SERVICE OF THE NATIVE POWERS

IN THE

NORTH-WEST OF INDIA.

10279

THROUGH THE WORK ARE INTERSPERSED,

Geographical and Statistical Accounts of several of the States composing the Interior of the Peninsula, especially the Countries of Jypoor, Joudpoor, and Oudipoor, by Geographers denominated Rajpootanch, the Seiks of Punjaub, the Territory of Beykaneer, and the Country adjoining the Great Desart to the westward of Hurrianeh.

COMPILED AND ARRANGED FROM

MR. THOMAS'S ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS.

BY WILLIAM FRANCKLIN,

CAPTAIN OF INFANTRY;

Member of the Asiatic Society, Author of a Tour to Persia, and of the History of Shah Aulum.

9(67)

— MORES, POPULOS, ET PRÆLIA DIC[illegible]M.

CALCUTTA: PRINTED.

LONDON:

RE-PRINTED FOR JOHN STOCKDALE, PICCADILLY.

1805.

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T. Gillet, Printer, Salisbury Square.

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THE Publiſher having been favoured by a friend with a copy of the following intereſting Biography, which was printed at Calcutta, conceives that it could not but be acceptable to this country, which is ſo materially intereſted in whatever is connected with its vaſt poſſeſſions in India.

As it is a work which will probably excite a very general intereſt, he has thought it moſt adviſable to print it in octavo, whereby it could be afforded at conſiderably leſs than half the price of the quarto original.

LONDON,
20th Sept. 1805.

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MEMOIRS

OF

GEORGE THOMAS.

CHAPTER I.

Introduction.—Mr. Thomas enters into the ſervice of Appakandarow,—Repairs to Delhi. —Account of the environs of that city.

IN the enlightened period of the nineteenth century, when the world abounds in characters, as diſtinguiſhed for their abilities, in every branch of ſcientific and uſeful knowledge, as eminent for their courage and other perſonal qualifications, it may afford matter for ſurpriſe, that an obſcure individual ſhould merit the attention of the community. Yet, when it is conſidered that the ſingularity of

character, exhibited in the ſubject of the preſent memoirs, is rendered ſtill more intereſting by his adventures, his talents, his ſucceſſes, and his misfortunes, detailed in the following ſheets, it may not only form the beſt apology for the compiler in ſubmitting theſe memoirs to the public view, but alſo afford ſome uſeful inſtruction to the reader.

From the beſt information we could procure, it appears that Mr. George Thomas firſt came to India in a Britiſh ſhip of war, in 1781-2. His ſituation in the fleet was humble, having ſerved as a quarter maſter, or, as is affirmed by ſome, in the capacity of a common ſailor.

Shortly after landing in the vicinity of Madras, the activity of his mind, overcoming the lowlineſs of his ſituation, he determined to quit the ſhip, and embrace a life more ſuitable to his ardent diſpoſition.

His firſt ſervice was among the Polygars to the ſouthward, where he reſided a few years. But at length ſetting out over-land, he ſpirit-

edly traverſed the central part of the Peninſula, and about the year 1787 arrived at Delhi. Here he received a commiſſion in the ſervice of the Begum Sumroo. This lady is well known in the hiſtory of the tranſactions of modern times. Soon after his arrival at Delhi, the Begum, with her uſual judgment and diſcrimination of character, advanced him to a command in her army. From this period his military career in the north-weſt of India may be ſaid to have commenced.

In various and ſucceſſive actions againſt the Seiks, and others of the Begum's enemies, Mr. Thomas, by his courage and perſeverance, rendered her authority reſpectable. By theſe ſucceſſes, he obtained a conſiderable influence over the mind of his miſtreſs, and was for ſome time her chief adviſer and counſellor.*

* Among other brilliant acts, performed by Mr. Thomas, during his ſervice with the Begum, was the circumſtance related in the History of Shah Aulum. The Compiler of these Memoirs did not know, at the time, that Mr. Thomas was the officer who commanded the party. But that gentleman, during his residence at Benares, communi-

But, unfortunately for the mutual intereſts of both parties, after a reſidence of ſix or ſeven years, Mr. Thomas had the mortification to find himſelf ſupplanted in the good opinion of the Begum. His authority was aſſumed by a more ſucceſsful rival.

This conduct in the Begum, exciting much animoſity and many heart-burnings between the two rival commanders, Mr. Thomas reſolved to embark his fortunes on a different ſervice. He therefore quitted the Begum Sumroo, and about 1792 betook himſelf to the frontier ſtation of the Britiſh army, at the poſt of Anopſhire.

Here he waited ſeveral months, in the expectation of receiving overtures for employment from ſome of the native powers. He was not deceived in theſe expectations. In the beginning of the year 1793, Mr. Thomas, being at Anopſhire, received letters from Ap-

eated a detail of the affair, which, with a slight variation in a few particulars, happened as is stated in the printed work. See the History of Shah Aulum, page 167, et seq.

pakandarow, a Mahratta chief, conveying offers of ſervice, and promiſes of a comfortable proviſion.

To comprehend the nature and uſe of Mr. Thomas's ſervices at that juncture, it will be neceſſary to recur to the previous ſituation and proſpects of Appakandarow.

This chief had formerly been himſelf in the ſervice of Madhajee Scindiah, who gave him the command of two battalions of infantry, raiſed and diſciplined by the celebrated General Duboigne. In return for Appakandarow's ſervices, Scindiah had alſo, ſubſequently, entruſted to his management the diſtricts of Gualier and Gohud. Theſe, for ſome time, he conducted with ſucceſs: but having, in the year 1790, invaded Bundelcund, and being unſucceſsful in his operations, he was compelled to contract debts to a conſiderable amount. This irregular and improvident conduct occaſioned, firſt, his removal from command, and afterwards, his diſmiſſion from Scindiah's employ. Of a haughty and impatient ſpirit, Appakandarow ill brooked this

humiliation, and from that time ſought, by his own exertion, to eſtabliſh an independency. It was at this period he was joined by Mr. Thomas, who had with him 250 cavalry, choſen men, and of tried valour on ſeveral occaſions.

This acceſſion of force was highly acceptable to the Mahratta chief; he was, at that time, unable to keep under ſubjection ſeveral diſtricts, which, on account of his ill ſucceſs, had rebelled againſt his authority, and withheld the payment of their accuſtomed tribute.

Mr. Thomas was now directed by Appakandarow to raiſe a battalion conſiſting of 1000 men and 100 cavalry. For the maintenance of this force, he aſſigned to him the pergunnas of Thajara, Thopookara, and Ferozeepoor. They are all in the Mawatty diſtrict, ſituated to the ſouth-weſt of Delhi. Thoſe diſtricts had, ſome years preceding, been in a ſtate of rebellion, nor was Appakandarow able to reduce them to ſubmiſſion. The inhabitants, when a large force was ſent againſt them, uſually took ſhelter in the mountains;

but when the force was inferior in numbers, by uniting, they proved victorious. With cavalry, likewiſe, they committed depredations in every direction. Theſe exceſſes naturally rendered the Mahratta chief anxious of tranſferring the diſtricts to any perſon who would exert himſelf to prevent their plundering the induſtrious peaſants. Mr. Thomas's agreement with Appakandarow was, that he ſhould balance accounts every ſix months. Theſe terms having been agreed on, as an aſſurance of confidence, he preſented Mr. Thomas with two guns, ſome ammunition, and a few bullocks.

The neceſſary arrangements having been made, Mr. Thomas prepared to march, and take poſſeſſion of the lands aforementioned. He was however ſtopped by accounts, diſpatched by Mr. Perron, announcing the death of Scindiah.

The march thus poſtponed, Appakandarow repaired to Delhi to guard againſt an apprehended commotion in that capital. On their arrival at court, Appakandarow, and other

chiefs, among whom was Mr. Thomas, were honoured with Khilluts, ſimilar preſents were likewiſe given for Dowlut Row Scindiah, who had now ſucceeded to the poſſeſſions of his deceaſed uncle.

The mention of Delhi affords an opportunity of preſenting the reader with an account of ſome remarkable buildings, which ſtand without the precincts of the new city, and have hitherto eſcaped the obſervation of travellers. They were obtained by the compiler of theſe Memoirs during a viſit to this celebrated city, in 1793.

We come next to the tomb of Humaioon, the ſon of Baber, ſecond of the imperial Houſe of Timoor, and memorable for a chequered life of alternate proſperity and misfortune.—He died Anno Hejirah 963, and the mauſoleum was erected by his ſon, the famous Akbar, on the weſtern bank of the Jumna, in the city of old Delhi.

The building is ſituated in the centre of an

ample terrace, of red ſtone, two thouſand feet in circumference.

Upon this terrace riſes the mauſoleum of ſolid red ſtone. It is of a circular form, ſurmounted by a ſtupendous dome of white marble. Conſpicuous from its dimenſions, this dome is ſeen at a great diſtance. Four minarets, of red and white marble, ſupport the extremities of the building. Theſe are crowned with octagon pavilions of red ſtone, having marble cupolas. I judge the height to be about a hundred and twenty feet. A winding ſtair-caſe, of red ſtone, leads to a terrace, which encircles the exterior of the dome; hence you have a noble proſpect, both of the old and new Delhi.

The principal room below, is paved with large ſlabs of white marble. It contains the ſepulchre of Humaioon, of the common ſize, but elegantly decorated with chiſel work: it bears no inſcription. Adjoining to this room, are other apartments, in which are interred ſeveral princeſſes of the Houſe of Timoor.

Upon the terrace aforementioned are the graves of five princes of the royal family, viz, Darah Shekoah, who was put to death by order of his brother Aurungzebe. 2d. Mooizaddeen or, Jehandar. 3d. Shah Furrukſeir, put to death by the Seyuds. 4th. Beedar Bukht. 5th. Azim Shah, ſon of Aurungzebe. Near them is the grave of the late Emperor, the ſecond Aulumgeer.

About two hundred yards from the mauſoleum of Humaioon, is that of the famous Khan Khanan, prime miniſter of Jehangeer, and ſon of the renowned Byram Khan, memorable for contributing, in ſo great a degree, during the ſucceſſive reigns of Humaioon, Akbar, and Jehangeer, to eſtabliſh the Houſe of Timoor on the throne of Hindoſtan. The tomb reſembles, both in ſhape and ſize, that of the Nawaub Sufdar Jung. The fine marble covering however of the dome, as well as the inlayings of the minarets, and the gateways, have been dilapidated.

The generous mind cannot without indignation perceive the ravages which the diffe-

rent invaders of Hindoſtan have perpetrated upon theſe magnificent remains of departed grandeur. But what ſhall we ſay of thoſe now living* who, for the paltry conſideration of a few thouſand rupees, ſtrip the venerable ſhrines of the ſervants of their departed anceſtors, and, by robbing the dead of what gratitude or affection had beſtowed as a parting teſtimony, acquire thereby a partial, and diſgraceful opulence?

A mile to the ſouthward of the new city are the remains of the fort, palace, and moſque of the Patan emperor, the firſt Feroze. Theſe ruins embrace a conſiderable extent. The walls of the fort are of immenſe thickneſs, and the prodigious quantity of granite, with other ſtones, ſpread in heaps over the whole of the interior of the incloſure, denote it to have been a grand and ſplendid edifice.

This fort was built Anno Hejirah 755, and was deſtroyed by the Mogul conqueror Timoor,

* To every one at Delhi, it is notorious that a Prince of the Houſe of Timoor now living, has actually ſold the marble of this tomb, for twenty five thouſand rupees.

in his invaſion of Hindoſtan. Toward the centre of the place is a building of an ancient ſtyle, flanked with round pillars, and crowned with turrets of three ſtories. At the top of this building, on an ample terrace of ſtone, about forty feet in height, is a column of brown granite. On this column is an inſcription, in the ancient character beforementioned, as diſcernible on the pillar in the fort of Allahabad, and compoſed of the ſame materials. This pillar is called, by the natives, *Feroze Cotelah*, the ſtaff of Feroze, and from the conſtruction of the building on which it is placed, I ſhould conjecture it has been a monument of Hindoo grandeur, prior to the irruptions of the Muſſulmans. Adjoining to the cotelah, is a very large building differing in the ſtyle of its architecture from thoſe moſques built ſubſequent to the eſtabliſhment of the Moguls. This moſque is ſquare, has four extenſive aiſles or cloiſters, the roofs of which are ſtone, and ſupported by two hundred and fifty columns of ſtone, about ſixteen feet high. The length of the cloiſters gives a grand appearance to the building. An octangular dome, of ſtone and brick work, about twenty-five feet high,

riſes from the centre of the moſque. In the weſtern cloiſter is a kibla, or niche, in the wall, in the direction of Mecca. Of this moſque the emperor Timoor took a model, and carrying it with him on his return to Samarcand his capital, accompanied at the ſame time by artificers and workmen of every deſcription, he ſhortly after his arrival built a magnificent temple.

In the northern aiſle of this moſque, at the upper end, is a ſmall window, from which was thrown the body of the late emperor the ſecond Allumgeer, who had been aſſaſſinated at the inſtigation of his vizier Gaziodeen Khan. The aſſaſſins were two Mahomedan devotees, whom he had viſited under the pretext of their working miracles. The body of this unfortunate prince, unburied, for two days lay on the ſands of the Jumna. At laſt it was taken up by permiſſion of Gaziodeen, and interred in the ſepulchre of Humaioon. To me it appears that the ſtyle of building in this moſque, refers to a period in the architecture of Hindoſtan prior to the Mogul conqueſts. The moſque at Paniput, erected by the emperor Baber, may be

looked upon as the model of all the ſucceeding Mogul buildings.

COOTTUB MINAR.

Nine miles ſouth of Delhi is the celebrated column, deſignated Coottub Minar, ſituated near, and deriving that name from the tomb of Khaja Cuttubadeen. His diſciple, Shemſadeen, of the family of Ghazi, erected this column, Anno Hejirah 770. Shemſadeen deſigned that this pillar and another ſimilar one ſhould have marked the entrance of a magnificent moſque. It was begun upon the ruins of a Hindoo temple. Having finiſhed this pillar, and parts of the buildings adjacent, Shemſadeen's premature death prevented the completion of a work which would have been one of the moſt magnificent in the world. The whole was intended as a monument to perpetuate to poſterity the triumph of Mahomedan faith over that of Brimha. The column has a moſt ſtupendous appearance. Conceive a ſhaft of ſixty feet diameter, compoſed partly of red ſtone, partly of white marble,

riſing to the height of two hundred and fifty feet.

Aſcending this pillar, relief is afforded by four projecting galleries of red ſtone. Tapering toward the ſummit, it was crowned with an octagon pavilion. I imagine this pavilion would have contained at leaſt, a dozen perſons. Each of the galleries are moſt richly tho' differently ornamented. The column is relieved, and rendered ſtrikingly bold, by convex and angular projections.

Within this grand tower, is a circular ſtaircaſe of three hundred and eight ſteps of red ſtone. There are, at intervals, landing places which communicate with windows. From the octagon, on the ſummit, the view is ſtrikingly grand. Looking from ſuch a height, the mind is impreſſed with ſenſations of admiration and of awe. Inſcriptions in ſeveral parts, twelve inches in breadth, embrace the column. Theſe contain verſes from the Koran, in the Arabick character. The galleries are ſupported by ſculptured ornaments,

of which the richneſs is greatly heightened by a profuſion of frieze work.

This deſcription of the Coottub Minar, with the engraving* ſhewing the veſtiges of the ruins which ſurround it, will I doubt not incline the reader to think with me that they are objects to a traveller, perhaps, equally intereſting as any in the world; and through the eaſt are not to be found more impreſſive memorials of its ingenuity, its magnificence, and its grandeur.

* For this I am indebted to the kindness of Lieutenant Macdougal, of the engineers, from whose sketch, on the spot, it has been engraved.

S.W. VIEW OF THE CÔÔTUB MINAR.

Height of the Column 250 feet. Diameter 60 d°.

Published Sept^r 10^th 1805 by J. Stockdale, Piccadilly.

CHAPTER II.

Mr. Thomas marches towards his new Pergunnahs.—Military operations.—Intrigues of Begum Somroo.—She is depoſed.—Death of Levaſſo.—Altercation betwixt Mr. Thomas and Appakandarow.—Occurrences.

HAVING remained ſome time at Delhi, it afforded Mr. Thomas the opportunity of recruiting his forces to 700 men; with this reinforcement, he prepared for his departure to the diſtricts which had been aſſigned to him by Appakandarow.

To the accompliſhment of that purpoſe a new obſtacle aroſe;—unable to pay his troops, they became mutinous, and plundered the adjacent country. This conduct diſguſting Appakandarow, produced high words between him and Mr. Thomas. The diſpute, after much altercation, ended in a compromiſe, by

which Mr. Thomas received the ſum of 14,000 rupees, and an aſſignment for the reſt of his claims. The latter, however, was never fulfilled.

In the march towards his diſtricts, Mr. Thomas retaliated upon the Begum Sumroo, whom he now conſidered his bitter enemy, laying under contribution that part of her country which came within his route.

Arriving at Goorath, a large and populous village, he impoſed heavy contributions. Theſe amounted to a conſiderable ſum. He found here alſo an ample ſupply of bullocks and forage.

Continuing his march, after a long and tedious day's journey, he encamped near the town of Tejara, a place in the centre of the Mewattee diſtrict. The night was dark and rainy: this and the extreme fatigue of the ſoldiers conſpired to render ſucceſsful an attempt which the Mewattys made, and they carried off a horſe from the very centre of the camp.

In the morning, a party was detached to diſcover the village to which the horſe had been conveyed. The party had not proceeded far when they were attacked, and obliged to retreat. Orders were then given for the cavalry to advance, and cover the detachment. And Mr. Thomas himſelf leading the infantry, haſtily marched, and with his collected force, attacked the enemy at the village, to which, it appears, the horſe had been carried. By this time they had aſſembled and became formidable. The centre diviſion of Mr. Thomas's troops, in a ſhort time ſet fire to the village, and there ſeemed no doubt of a complete victory, when the diviſions on the right and left giving way, fled with precipitation. The wounded left on the field were, even at this criſis of the action, cut to pieces by the enemy.

The centre diviſion, under the ſpecial command of Mr. Thomas, now following the example of their brethren, left him, of his troops, only a dozen infantry and a few cavalry.

Thus diſcomfited and vexed by the unſteadineſs of his troops, Mr. Thomas, as a laſt reſort,

encouraged his ſmall party to exert themſelves in extricating a nine-pounder, which unfortunately, previouſly to the battle, had ſtuck in the bed of a nullah. In this he had juſt ſucceeded, when the enemy, as certain of victory, recommenced a furious attack, and endeavoured to ſeize the gun.

The commandant of cavalry, a man of diſtinguiſhed bravery, ſtill adhered to Mr. Thomas, and deſperately, with a few others, threw himſelf between the gun and the enemy. *They* were cut to pieces, but the gallant effort afforded time to re-mount and oppoſe a well-directed fire of grape from the nine-pounder. This ſaved Mr. Thomas and the brave few of his ſurviving party. For, after the diſcharge of a few rounds, the enemy retired to the ſurrounding ravines.

Mr. Thomas now collected the fugitives, who with his veteran party formed a detachment of about 300 men. With theſe he unconcernedly challenged the enemy to a renewal of the combat, which they now as cautiouſly declined.

In its firſt view ſo diſaſtrous, this action, by the dread it ſpread among the enemy, proved highly fortunate. Great as was Mr. Thomas's loſs of brave and attached ſoldiers, that of the Mewattys was infinitely more conſiderable. The immediate conſequence was an overture, on the part of their chief, of terms which ſhortly led to an amicable adjuſtment. They agreed to pay Mr. Thomas a year's rent, and to reſtore to him the property that had been ſtolen. The performance of theſe articles was guaranteed by ſecurities.

The puniſhment of this village, the ſtrongeſt in the whole diſtrict, and its inhabitants the moſt refractory, was highly favourable to Mr. Thomas's intereſt; the more ſo, as in a preceding campaign the whole force of Begum Sumroo had been in vain exerted to reduce it. Mr. Thomas next prepared to march againſt the remaining diſtricts which were ſtill in rebellion; and, having recruited his force for this purpoſe, he was ordered by Appakandarow to aſſiſt the collector of the diſtrict of Kiſhnagur.

Convinced by experience that vigorous measures could alone enſure ſucceſs, Mr. Thomas marched towards the refractory villages; of which having gained poſſeſſion, they were quickly conſumed by fire.

An example ſo ſevere deterred others from purſuing a ſimilar conduct. Of theſe the moſt conſiderable was the town of Jyjur; which, however, ſubmitting on the approach of the troops, oppoſition was at an end, and Mr. Thomas returned to Tejara.

On the ſubmiſſion of Jyjur, Appakandarow gave Mr. Thomas an order for a ſupply of money upon the collector of that place. The collector endeavoured to evade payment, by repreſenting that the diſtreſſed ſituation of Appakandarow (whoſe troops had juſt mutinied for want of payment of their arrears), required every rupee that could be raiſed; in conſequence, Mr. Thomas muſt, for the preſent, diſpenſe with payment. This, he obſerves, was true, but his people being in diſtreſs, to provide a remedy, he marched to Behadurg-

hur, in order to raiſe by contribution the neceſſary ſupplies.

In his route, the ſmall villages were found to be deſerted and the large ones increaſed with numbers of armed perſons. By this time, Mr. Thomas's troops, thinned by frequent deſertions, amounted only to 300 men; but theſe, had they been ſoldiers accuſtomed to diſcipline, would ſtill have been ſufficient to anſwer the purpoſe of completing the reduction of the rebellious Zemindars.

Arriving at Mundaka, the Zemindars of which place had been the original cauſe of the miſunderſtanding betwixt Appakandarow and Mr. Thomas, were found ready for the combat; Mr. Thomas therefore, though with a force ſo inconſiderable, heſitated not in making an immediate attack: in this he was ſucceſsful, and having defeated the enemy, he found in the place plunder to the amount of four thouſand rupees.

During theſe tranſactions, the Begum Sumroo, and the Mahratta governor of Delhi,

jealous of the aſcendancy Mr. Thomas had acquired, ſent a force to watch his motions: for the preſent he thought the moſt prudent method to eſcape obſervation would be by removing to a diſtance, and his new levies being now complete, he marched directly back to the town of Tejara.

At this place Mr. Thomas received a letter from Appakandarow, who was ſtill detained in the fort of Kotepootly by the mutinous ſtate of his troops. His ſituation had been rendered thus unpleaſant by the intrigues of Gopaul Row, Scindia's commander in chief. That chief had written letters to the principal ſirdars in the army, promiſing them payment of their arrears provided they would deliver up Appa as a priſoner. He further obſerved, that he had but too much reaſon to imagine the ſirdars would yield a ready acquieſcence to this offer; that, diſtreſſed for proviſions, and having his family with him, if Mr. Thomas could not come to his aſſiſtance, he muſt ultimately be compelled to throw himſelf on the mercy of his enemies.

On receipt of this letter, although it rained heavily and the day was far advanced, Mr. Thomas, without hesitation, set off: he marched all that night and the best part of the ensuing day and night through a constant and heavy rain. About two o'clock in the morning he arrived at the fort of Kotepootly. The incessant rain prevented his having any opposition from the enemy without, and he encamped under the walls of the fort. The communication was thus happily opened, and provisions being sent in, plenty succeeded to the scarcity before experienced.

Mr. Thomas, aware that the force of the mutineers would daily become augmented, recommended to Appakandarow to evacuate the fort, and retreat to Kanoond. In the mean time he advised that letters should be written to Scindia, to deprecate the resentment of that chief. Approving of Mr. Thomas's proposal, Appakandarow appointed the ensuing day for the accomplishment of his purpose, and the business was conducted with so much secresy and address, that until the moment of departure every one seemed ignorant of the intend-

ed movement. At the appointed hour, Appakandarow, attended by a few perſons who ſtill adhered to him, came out of the fort of Kotepootly with his family and effects; he was received by Mr. Thomas, and placed in the centre of a ſtrong detachment, who formed around him, and commenced their march.

In order to protect the baggage, Mr. Thomas, with the remainder of his force, remained behind for a ſhort time, but the enemy now appearing prepared to purſue the detachment with determination to reſcue Appakandarow, Mr. Thomas, without further delay, joined that chief. They had not proceeded far when the van of the enemy made their appearance. Mr. Thomas, as the only means of inſpiring confidence, recommended to Appakandarow to mount an elephant, and ſhew himſelf to the troops. The meaſure was inſtantly adopted, and attended with the happieſt effect; for the enemy perceiving this reſolute conduct thought it moſt prudent to retire, and Mr. Thomas, without further oppoſition, conducted his chief in ſafety to Kanoond. Appakandarow, releaſed from his embarraſſment, was deſirous of making

a grateful return for the ſervices that had been rendered. He adopted Mr. Thomas as his ſon, preſented him with the ſum of three thouſand rupees to purchaſe an elephant and palankeen ſuitable to the dignity of his ſtation, ordered him to encreaſe his force two hundred infantry and as many cavalry; and finally, made over to him, in perpetuity, the diſtricts of Jyjur, Byrçe, Mandoté, and Phatoda, which yield an annual revenue of a lack and fifty thouſand rupees.

He was then diſmiſſed by Appakandarow, and directed to complete the arrangement of the remaining diſtricts in the Mewatty country.

This was become more neceſſary; a principal Zemindar, by name Gunga Biſhen, and of the tribe called Aheer,* had not only openly rebelled, but had made offers to Gopaul Row of ſurrendering up the diſtrict to Scindia; as an additional inducement for his acceptance,

* This tribe can bring into the field a body of fourteen thousand men.

the rebel ſtated that the real amount of the revenues were much larger than what had been acknowledged by Appakandarow, and paid by him to Scindia as his lord paramount. Appa being appriſed of this treacherous correſpondence, directed Mr. Thomas without delay to march and attack the rebel. He, on diſcloſure of his treachery, fled to the mountainous part of the Mewatty country, and there fortified himſelf. The orders for the march had been kept a profound ſecret in Mr. Thomas's camp. Arriving ſuddenly before the place, by a ſucceſsful ſtratagem Mr. Thomas took Gunga Biſhen priſoner, whom he ſent to Appa. The fort was ſtill maintained by his nephew, and a garriſon of one thouſand men; they had abundance of proviſions, ammunition, and ſtores of all kinds; the only inconvenience ſuſtained by the inhabitants was a ſcarcity of water. This article was not to be procured within two miles of the place. Mr. Thomas, in the hope of compelling them to ſurrender, commenced a blockade; and the better to enſure ſucceſs he conſtructed a chain of redoubts round the fort.

Whilſt employed in the erection of theſe poſts he had a narrow eſcape for his life. Retired to ſnatch an hour of ſleep and refreſhment from the toils of the preceding day, Mr. Thomas was ſuddenly awakened in the night by the noiſe and ſhouts of the enemy. Repairing to an eminence in the neighbourhood, he had the mortification to perceive that his own people had given way, and the enemy were become maſters of a newly-finiſhed redoubt, together with the arms and ammunition contained within: to add to his diſtreſs he perceived a party advancing to the place where he ſtood, unarmed and defenceleſs, (the hurry of his being awoke not giving him time to ſecure either piſtols or ſide-arms): fortunately however for him, a faithful ſervant had followed him with his ſword, which taking from the man's hand he prepared for his defence.

From various quarters ſpears were thrown, and matchlocks fired at him but without effect. Perceiving a ſtand of colours which his own men had left behind, he ſtooped to pick them up, which the enemy obſerving, concluded by the motion of his body that he had been

wounded; they ruſhed on him in numbers, and wounded him in ſeveral places. This compelled him to relinquiſh the colours and attack the enemy, whom he ſoon obliged to retreat. Mr. Thomas then aſcended an eminence, in order to diſcover, if poſſible, the direction his own troops had taken in their puſillanimous flight, but in vain. Faint from the wounds he had received in the late encounter, he now retired within his trenches and got them dreſſed. The ſiege of the place advanced apace, and two mines having been ſprung with conſiderable effect the garriſon capitulated.

During this ſiege Mr. Thomas and his people had undergone great hardſhip. Whilſt the grain remained on the ground he was enabled to procure ſupplies from the neighbouring country, but the harveſt being got in they were reduced to a ſcarcity of proviſions. His own tent, the only one in the camp, was converted into an hoſpital for the ſick and wounded; and the ſeaſon being ſevere Mr. Thomas humanely ſold his own horſes to procure blankets for the men.

Mr. Thomas next marched to Jyjur: on his arrival at that place, the zemindars who had revolted, not chuſing to conteſt the point, paid their rents, and the troops received their arrears.

Gopaul Row, the Mahratta general, was about this time ſuperſeded in his office of lieutenant-general of the poſſeſſions of Scindia in Hindoſtan. Luckwah Dadah and Jigwah Bapoo were appointed to ſucceed him. In this ſtate of Mr. Thomas's affairs, the army of theſe chiefs arrived in the vicinity of Appa's country. That chief determined to pay his reſpects, and for this purpoſe repaired to their camp; at firſt he was well received, but had not long remained when a ſum of money was required of him under pretext of payment of an old tribute due to Scindia. He was moreover informed, that until this was paid he would be detained in the camp.

Unable to raiſe the ſum demanded, Appakandarow was under the neceſſity of reſigning the beſt part of his country into the hands of Bapoo Farneveſe, who had been appointed

by the expreſs orders of the Poona government. Although the ſum required was leſs than two lacks of rupees, and many perſons in Appa's family could eaſily have afforded him aſſiſtance in his diſtreſs, not a man was to be found who would now part with a rupee. The diſtricts were therefore made over in mortgage; and the ſum required by the Mahratta commanders was advanced by Bapoo Farneveſe.

It was moreover ſtipulated, that the troops kept up by Bapoo, for the purpoſe of collection, ſhould be paid from the treaſury of Appakandarow. "In ſhort (ſays Mr. Thomas in terms of indignation) it was plainly to be ſeen, that whoever might hereafter, by chance of war, obtain poſſeſſion of the diſtricts in queſtion, it was evident that by theſe conceſſions, Appa had for ever done away his own right."

Among theſe pergunnahs were three in the Mewatty country which belonged to Mr. Thomas. The loſs to him was ſevere; but, as he obſerves with a conſideration highly to his credit as a ſoldier, "I had no cauſe for

"complaint when my principal was ruined." After theſe tranſactions Mr. Thomas was directed to aſſiſt the deputy appointed by Appa to collect the revenues of the remaining part of his country: a taſk of conſiderable difficulty; ſince the Zemindars, hearing of Appa's detention in the camp of the Mahrattas, had broken out into open rebellion againſt his authority. To reduce them to obedience, Mr Thomas marched with about eight hundred men that remained after the heavy ſervice he had lately experienced; promptitude in planning, and vigour in execution, being abſolutely neceſſary, Mr. Thomas, by his animated exertions, in a very ſhort time captured ſeveral of the principal places, ſome by day aſſaults, and others by night.

Among others, the capture of Byree appears intereſting, in the narration. "In the fort, ſays Mr. Thomas, "excluſive of the garriſon, "were three hundred rajepoots and jauts. "Theſe had been hired for the expreſs pur- "poſe of defending the place, and it was here "I was in the moſt imminent danger of loſing "the whole of my party. We had ſtormed

" the fort, and were beat back with loſs;
" one of my ſirdars was wounded, and, from
" the confuſion that occurred, left behind in
" the hands of the enemy; the danger was
" every moment increaſing, the town was on
" fire in ſeveral parts, and our retreat nearly
" cut off by the flames that ſurrounded us.

"In this ſituation, we had the additional
" mortification to perceive the mercileſs enemy
" ſeize on the wounded officer, and, with ſa-
" vage barbarity, precipitate him into the fire.
" Equally animated, as enraged, by this ſpec-
" tacle, my troops now ruſhed forward to the
" attack, with an ardour that was irreſiſtible.
" Having gained entire poſſeſſion of the fort,
" the ſoldiers, with clamorous expreſſions of re-
" venge, inſiſted on the death of every one of
" the garriſon that remained, and I was not in-
" clined to refuſe; but it coſt us dear, the
" enemy to a man made a brave reſiſtance.
" This conteſt was continued ſo long, as to
" afford time to thoſe who had retreated, to
" return: by this means, we were again en-
" gaged, and at one time almoſt overpowered;
" but, receiving a reinforcement of our own

"party, the enemy, by ſlow degrees, began "again to retreat which they effected. I "purſued with the cavalry: the enemy once "more made a ſtand in the jungles adjoining "to the town; when, after a ſecond deſperate "conflict, they gave way on all ſides, and "moſt of them were cut to pieces."

Scarcely however had Mr. Thomas completed the objects of his march, when he received letters from Appa, of a tendency moſt unpromiſing: in theſe, Appa, after deſcanting on his finances, the low ſtate of which did not permit him to retain longer, either Mr. Thomas or his troops, recommended him to diſmiſs his battalions, and repair to the head quarters, which were now in the country of the Row Rajah.

In anſwer, Mr. Thomas ſtated his utter impoſſibility to diſcharge the men, without previous payment of their arrears. He then marched to join Appa, and found that chief in the vicinity of Alwar. Appa, after expatiating on the ungrateful conduct of thoſe perſons who had enjoyed his confidence, informed Mr.

Thomas, in terms of apparent uneaſineſs, that the Mahratta commanders, who had become acquainted with his influence, and the part he had taken in the buſineſs againſt the mutineers, conſidered him as a dangerous perſon; as one who would, if occaſion occurred, act againſt the intereſts of Scindia himſelf: they had therefore requeſted of him to diſcharge Mr. Thomas from the ſervice.

This information, however, Mr. Thomas found to be incorrect; for in a conference he had with Luckwa on the following day, that chief not only diſclaimed all idea of diſapproving Mr. Thomas's conduct, but even offered him the command of two thouſand men in the ſervice of Scindia.

Mr. Thomas, for ſeveral reaſons, declined cloſing with this propoſal. The diſtricts of Appa's country were now in open rebellion; and, notwithſtanding the preſent deceit on his part, Mr. Thomas conſidered himſelf under obligations which could not be paſſed over; that if he now quitted him, it would in all probability prove his utter ruin; he therefore reſolved to

adhere to Appakandarow, and endeavour to retrieve his affairs.

Appa excuſed himſelf for his late conduct, and Mr. Thomas now prepared for his march. For the preſent he was interrupted by a requeſt from Luckwa to afford his aſſiſtance in the reduction of a fort which had refuſed to pay the uſual tribute. Mr. Thomas, with the conſent of Appa, joined the forces of Luckwa, and commenced their march.

On their arrival before the place Mr. Thomas's poſt was aſſigned him; but his ſoldiers being now ſix months in arrears, refuſed, without payment, to proceed: in this exigency, Mr. Thomas, to ſatisfy their demands, was once more compelled to part with his property; having done this, the ſoldiers returned to their duty.

The enemy, in the hope of compelling the Mahrattas to raiſe the ſiege, had taken poſſeſſion of the ravines in the neighbourhood: ſeveral ſkirmiſhes took place, with loſs on both ſides.

A propoſal was made by Mr. Gardiner, the commandant of a brigade of Scindia's troops, to advance the ſecond parallel: a council aſſembled to conſult on the moſt eligible mode, but finding this could not be effected without firſt taking a redoubt which lay in their front, no perſon appearing inclined to riſk the enterpriſe, the council broke up.

On the enſuing day Mr. Thomas, of his own accord, took an opportunity, when the enemy were off their guard, to ſtorm the redoubt. Repeated attempts were made by the enemy to regain poſſeſſion, but he bravely maintained himſelf in it, till a reinforcement arriving they gave up the conteſt. Mr. Thomas immediately fortified the poſt.

The parallel was advanced, and the garriſon perceiving no chance of ſuccour from without, the commandant negotiated, and as a ranſom for the fort agreed to pay the ſum of two lacs of rupees. Mr. Thomas received a ſum ſufficient to reimburſe him for the expences he had incurred, and was then directed

to return to his own diſtricts. Soon after his arrival he reſtored them to order.

Mr. Thomas had by this time formed his men into a regiment conſiſting of two battalions; of theſe, one he detached to collect the revenues of the country, and with the other remained at Jyjur.

During theſe tranſactions begum Sumroo, in whoſe ſervice Mr. Thomas had formerly been employed, was now trying every means in her power to effect his ruin. She had even gone ſo far as to bribe the Mahratta officers to adviſe his diſmiſſion; and a body of Mahrattas having joined her army, ſhe marched from Sirdhanna, her capital, and encamped about ſeventeen coſs ſouth-eaſt of Jyjur.

This conduct in the begum Mr. Thomas attributed to the influence of the officers in her ſervice; and more particularly to that of Levaſſo, who not only commanded her troops, but had lately received her hand in marriage.

On every occaſion, he was the declared and inveterate enemy of Mr. Thomas; and had by his influence wrought in the begum her preſent determination.

In the begum's army it was publicly aſſerted, that their preſent deſtination was againſt Mr. Thomas. Her force, conſiſting of four battalions of infantry, twenty pieces of artillery, and about four hundred cavalry, was commanded by officers of tried and acknowledged abilities. Mr. Thomas, having recalled the battalion that had been detached, had now a regiment conſiſting of two thouſand men, ten pieces of artillery, five hundred irregulars, and two hundred cavalry.

The diſſenſions, however, that aroſe among the begum's officers, not only induced her to relinquiſh her intention of attacking Mr. Thomas, but ended in her impriſonment, and the total ſubverſion of her authority. The cauſe of theſe diſſenſions muſt now be traced to its ſource.

Levaſſo, who had the chief command of the

begum's army, was jealous of the authority of Legois. This man is a German; and ſo named from Liege, the place of his nativity. He had been many years in habits of intimacy and friendſhip with Mr. Thomas; and, on the preſent occaſion, had ſtrenuouſly diſſuaded the begum from the propoſed hoſtilities. This conduct having given umbrage to Levaſſo, he by his influence with the begum, procured Legois's degradation; and to render his diſgrace the more mortifying, his place was given to a junior officer.

A conduct ſo inconſiſtent and unjuſt diſguſted the ſoldiers, who for many years had been commanded by Legois, with whom alſo they had often fought and conquered. They remonſtrated, but in vain, againſt the meaſure; finding there was no hope of altering the begum's reſolution, they ſuddenly broke out into open mutiny. They invited Zuffur Yab Khawn, the ſon of the late Sumroo by a former wife, who then reſided at Delhi, to become their commander. In return, they promiſed to ſeat him on the muſnud. For this purpoſe, a deputation of the army, in ſpite of

all the exertions of the begum, repaired to Delhi, and ſolemnly tendered him the command. Zuffur Yab Khawn, fearful of the intrigues of his mother-in-law, at laſt conſented. To relieve his apprehenſion, the deputation, in the name of the army, took an oath of fidelity to him on the ſpot.

On the firſt intelligence of the conſpiracy the begum and Levaſſo, with a few of their old ſervants, prepared for flight. It was their intention to have proceeded directly to the Ganges, and to ſeek refuge in the country of the vizier Aſuph ool Dowla.

In this reſolution, however, they were unfortunately intercepted. A party of cavalry which had been detached by Zuffur Yub Khawn on the firſt intimation of their flight, overtook and ſurrounded them at the village of Kerwah, in the begum's jaghire, four miles diſtant from her capital. Previous to the commencement of hoſtilities the commandant of cavalry proclaimed a free pardon, and promiſe of their arrears, to the ſoldiers who ſtill adhered

to the begum, on condition of their laying down their arms, and delivering up the begum and her huſband.

In the confuſion that aroſe, and before any reſolution could be taken, ſome ſhot were fired, and a few men ſlightly wounded. The ſoldiers, perceiving they had nothing to hope from the begum (who, they knew, only wiſhed to get away with her effects), openly declared themſelves for Sumroo's ſon. The infantry then ſurrounding her palanquin demanded her to ſurrender; the cavalry at the ſame time ſurrounded her huſband, who was on horſeback. The begum at that inſtant drew a poniard from her ſide, and running the point of it acroſs her breaſt drew a little blood, but with no intention of killing herſelf. Her attendants calling for aſſiſtance, Levaſſo hearing the tumult demanded to know what had happened. He was anſwered that the begum had killed herſelf: twice he put the ſame queſtion, and receiving the ſame anſwer, with great deliberation he put a piſtol to his mouth, ſhot himſelf, and immediately fell from his horſe. "The vil-" lains (ſays Mr. Thomas) who, the preceding

"day, had ſtyled themſelves his ſlaves, now "committed every act of inſult and indignity "upon his corpſe!" For three days it lay expoſed to the inſults of the rabble, and was at length thrown into a ditch.

Meanwhile Zuffur Yub Khawn advanced to Sirdhanna, whither the begum had already been conducted a priſoner; and having aſſumed the government of the jaghire, tranquillity was ſoon re-eſtabliſhed.

Freed from the apprehenſion of hoſtilities, Mr. Thomas now ſedulouſly employed himſelf in the arrangement of the diſtricts.

Appakandarow, who during the late events had found means to ſow diſſenſions between Luckwa and Bappoo Ferneveſe, now reaped the fruits of his addreſs. Finding theſe commanders at variance, he prepared to return to Kanond; and while on the march to that place, ſent written orders to Mr. Thomas to diſmiſs the collectors who had been appointed by Bappoo, and to reinſtate his own.

Mr. Thomas obeyed; but Bappoo's army amounting to three thouſand men, it coſt the lives of many to diſpoſſeſs him.

This affair however being at length terminated, Mr. Thomas had the long-expected interview with Appa. They met at Narnoul, a place which had that morning ſurrendered to his arms. After the ſtrongeſt expreſſions of ſatisfaction, and of the ſenſe he entertained of his ſervices, as proof of thoſe ſentiments Appakandarow preſented Mr. Thomas with an elephant, a palanquin, ſhawls, and other articles of value.

A reception ſo cordial was highly gratifying; but its effect was ſoon diminiſhed when, three days after, Appa demanded the delivery of a Bramin in the ſervice of Bappoo Ferneveſe, from whom he intended to exact a fine.

It muſt here be remarked, that previous to the ſurrender of the fort this man, coming privately to Mr. Thomas's camp, had offered terms for the delivery of the fort, for himſelf and two others who accompanied him; as the reward

of his treachery, he required ſecurity of life and property, towhich Mr. Thomas yielded a ready aſſent.

Notwithſtanding theſe aſſurances, Appa, at this time in want of a ſupply of money, inſiſted on his delivery, which Mr. Thomas for the reaſons above ſtated as poſitively declined.

To convince Appa of the juſtneſs of his reaſoning, Mr. Thomas exhibited to that chief his own written orders, which had been communicated at the commencement of hoſtilities. Theſe poſitively ſpecified that the ſervants of Bappoo or his adherents who ſubmitted ſhould not ſuffer either in perſon or fortune, but on the contrary were to be allowed a ſafe conduct and ſuitable eſcort to Mattra or Delhi.

In vain Mr. Thomas ſhewed this order; Appa continued inflexible, and contended moreover that as theſe people had formerly been in his own employ, he had on the preſent occaſion a right to extort money. On quitting the durbar the bramin informed Mr. Thomas that he with others was willing to ſettle ac-

counts with Appa, and only required that perſons of integrity ſhould be appointed to inſpect them. To this likewiſe Appa refuſed his conſent; adding that if Mr. Thomas ſtill heſitated to deliver up the people his own conſequence would thereby be leſſened in the eyes of his army. They parted mutually diſſatisfied with each other. To bring this buſineſs to an iſſue Mr. Thomas ſent a meſſage, offering to procure a perſon who, if the bramin was liberated, ſhould become reſponſible for the adjuſtment of the accounts. Appa, highly enraged, and well knowing that the bramin owed him nothing, not only rejected this propoſal, but declined all further intercourſe.

A few days after this altercation, Appa ſent a meſſage to Mr. Thomas deſiring his attendance in the town. He went thither. On his arrival at the houſe he was informed by the ſervants that Appa was unable to come down. Mr. Thomas, unwilling to give any cauſe for offence, ordered the ſoldiers who had accompanied him to remain below; and aſcending by himſelf, was, by a perſon on whoſe attachment he could rely, introduced into his apart-

ment: to his no ſmall ſurpriſe, that chief appeared in perfect health, but of this Mr. Thomas took no notice. The diſcourſe concerning the Bramin was renewed; and ſhortly after Appa riſing from his ſeat, told Mr. Thomas he intended taking a ſlight repaſt, and would then return. Scarcely had he quitted the room in which they ſat before Mr. Thomas was ſurpriſed by the appearance of ſeveral armed men. He now began to ſuſpect ſome treacherous attempt againſt his perſon might be intended; but with that preſence of mind which on trying occaſions never forſook him, he continued firm on his ſeat, convinced that if on this occaſion he had retired it would have afforded matter of triumph to his enemies.

In this ſituation he remained until Appa returned to an adjoining room; from thence he ſent Mr. Thomas a written order immediately to deliver up the perſons in queſtion. Mr. Thomas perceiving matters were advancing to a criſis, and preferring death to diſhonour, roſe from his ſeat, and reſolutely told the perſon who had delivered the order that he would never perform what was now required; with-

out further diſcuſſion he entered the apartment of Appa, his ſword being in his hand, but as yet undrawn: the Mahratta chief, on Mr. Thomas's approach, appeared heſitating, and as if he was uncertain how to act; Mr. Thomas perceiving his confuſion took this opportunity of paying him the cuſtomary compliment, and retiring unmoleſted, though fully determined to viſit him no more.

On his arrival in the camp, Mr. Thomas diſpatched his Dewan to Appakandarow with the following meſſage:—"That compelled by "a juſt indignation againſt the treachery of his "proceeding, he would no longer ſerve him." In making this declaration, Mr. Thomas had the ſatisfaction to find he was ſupported by the troops; who, fired at the inſult offered to a man whom they ſo highly reſpected, had declared with unanimous conſent that they would remain no longer in the ſervice of Appakandarow. Intimidated by this ſpirited reſolution, Appa now wiſhed to compromiſe the matter: he ſent excuſes to Mr. Thomas in mitigation of his treachery, and to enſure confidence came the next day in perſon to the camp. Willing

to forget the paſt, Mr. Thomas received his chief with reſpect; and matters having once more been placed on an amicable footing, Appa told Mr. Thomas that he had received letters from Bappoo Farneveſe, requeſting the delivery of the perſons who had occaſioned the differences, as a perſonal favour to himſelf. They were accordingly ſent off to Muttra in the manner propoſed.

Mr. Thomas was now directed to repair to the Mewatty country, to collect the tribute that had become due. Taking leave of Appa, he in a few days arrived at Mewat; his preſence at this juncture was the more neceſſary, perpetual quarrels having ariſen between the collectors of Appakandarow and thoſe who had been recently nominated by the Mahratta commanders. Mr. Thomas, however, by his active and ſpirited conduct on this occaſion, by puniſhing ſome and conciliating others, at laſt brought matters into a favourable train of ſettlement. In the courſe of theſe tranſactions he had been under the neceſſity of taking one of the forts by ſtorm, in which were found ſeveral pieces of artillery, and an abundant ſupply of bullocks

and other carriage-cattle. Appakandarow, hearing of this capture, claimed as his right the artillery that had been found in the fort. Mr. Thomas as ſtrenuouſly inſiſted on its being the property of the captors. Repeated altercations enſued, till at length Appakandarow having ſecretly gained over a body of Ghoſſeins, who were proceeding to their annual pilgrimage at Hurdwar, inſtigated them to the attack of Mr. Thomas's camp.

CHAPTER III.

Deſcriptive account of the Hurdwar, and of the annual pilgrimage—Mr. Thomas defeats the Ghoſſeins—the diſtricts of Panniput and Soneput are added to Mr. Thomas's poſſeſſions—account of the city of Panniput, and of the canal of Ali Merdan Khan.

THE mountains through which the Ganges flows at Hurdwar, preſent the ſpectator with the view of a grand natural amphitheatre; their appearance is rugged, and deſtitute of verdure; they run in ridges and blunt points, in a direction eaſt and weſt; at the back of the largeſt range, riſe, towering to the clouds, the lofty mountains of Himmalayah, whoſe tops are covered with perpetual ſnow, which on clear days preſent a moſt ſublime proſpect. The large jagged maſſes, broken into a variety of irregular ſhapes, added to their ſtupendous height, impreſs the mind with an idea of antiquity and grandeur coeval

with the creation, and the eternal froſt with which they are encruſted appears to preclude the poſſibility of mortals ever attaining their ſummit.

In viewing this grand ſpectacle of nature, the traveller may eaſily yield his aſſent to, and pardon, the ſuperſtitious veneration of the Hindoo votary who, in the fervour of his imagination, aſſigns the ſummit of theſe icy regions as the abode of the great Mahadeo, or Firſt Cauſe; where, ſeated on his throne of ice, he is ſuppoſed to receive the homage of the ſurrounding univerſe.

Hurdwar is a place of great ſanctity, and rendered memorable for the pilgrimages made thither from a remote antiquity.

About the latter end of March, and beginning of April, the pilgrims from Punjab, Guzurat, and the loweſt points of Bengal, aſſemble in prodigious numbers.

In 1794, not leſs than an hundred and fifty thouſand perſons were aſſembled, though four-

teen days were ſtill remaining before the pilgrimage would be completed.

Brima and Biſhun, or the creating and preſerving powers, are the principal objects of worſhip at Hurdwar. The temple, ſituate at the foot of the mountain, is called Brimhakood, or the reſervoir of Brimha. Hither the pilgrims reſort, and after purifying themſelves in the Ganges, they cut off their hair and ſhave themſelves. Thoſe who die during the pilgrimage, are burnt on the banks of the Ganges, and their aſhes thrown into the river.

The pilgrimage to Hurdwar is eſteemed of ſuch conſequence, as to be equivalent to that of Caſi (Benares), Puraug (Allahabad), or Chillumbrum, in the Carnatic; and a devotee who has viſited this place may be excuſed from going to any other the remainder of his days. This pilgrimage never fails to benefit the inhabitants of Hurdwar and the neighbouring villages; as out of the great number who reſort there at the annual period, all perſons are obliged to pay a duſtoor, or tax, to the bra-

mins and chokeydars of the villages. This amounts to a large ſum.

Excluſive of the profits before ſtated, the Mahrattas receive a tax upon horſes and camels coming to the fair; the former paying eight annas per head, and the latter ſix annas; one half of this impoſt is levied at the village Joalahpore, and the remainder at the Hurdwar. Hackerys, or wheel-carriages, pay a tax of eight annas, and the covered doolies for the women two annas. There is likewiſe a reſoom (cuſtom) upon the ſale of horſes and camels, on the former ten per cent. and the latter eight, which is paid equally between the vendor and purchaſer. Another mode by which the inhabitants enrich themſelves is, by raiſing the price of grain and articles of proviſion, though upon the balance this is not much againſt the viſitors; who, bringing along with them the production of their reſpective countries, diſpoſe of their goods to advantage at Hurdwar.

Hence this pilgrimage has been converted into a great fair, where all ſorts of merchan-

dize from various parts of Hindoſtan are ſold.

To Hurdwar are brought horſes, camels, mules, cloths from the Punjab, ſhawls, fruit, ſaffron, muſk, Caſhmerian wool, braſs, and tutinague; *cherruſs*, an intoxicating drug, which bears an exceſſive price in Bengal; fire-arms from Lahore, and excellent Perſian ſcimitars. Theſe ſeveral articles are bought, exchanged, and ſold; and, from the aſſemblage of people compoſed of ſo many different nations, the place reſembles a grand commercial emporium: added to this, thoſe rajahs and petty chiefs, who viſit Hurdwar from religious motives, being attended by their troops, and their reſpective ſuites, contribute to accumulate the general maſs, ſo that all is hurry, buſtle, noiſe, and confuſion.

But to return to our narrative after this digreſſion. The Mahratta chief afore-mentioned, having inſtigated the Ghoſſeins to attack Mr. Thomas in his camp, to encourage them, offered as a reward for their ſervices, the ſum of ten thouſand rupees. Theſe particulars were

communicated to Mr. Thomas by his own vakeel, then reſident with Appa. Incenſed at the indignity offered him by a conduct ſo treacherous, he marched againſt the Ghoſſeins, whom he attacked and defeated with great loſs to them, and to himſelf but trifling. After the encounter, they fled towards Delhi; and not thinking themſelves ſafe there, continued to retreat until they had croſſed the Jumna.

On the retreat of the Ghoſſeins, Mr. Thomas expoſtulated with Appa on the treachery of his conduct. He told him that the late tranſaction was ſo ſhameful, that he could no longer remain in his ſervice. Mr. Thomas particularly expatiated on the treatment ſuſtained by a Mr. Taylor: whom, after unjuſtly depriving of his command, Appa had confined in the fort of Goalier, under the pretext of extorting money; till finding the man was not either to be daunted by threats, or cajoled by promiſes, he had at length given him his liberty. "Such," ſaid Mr. Thomas with indignation, "has been the fate of all who have ſerved "you with fidelity."

As a Mahratta is ſeldom at a loſs for an excuſe, Appa, in anſwer to theſe charges, replied, that his own inability to attend to buſineſs (being confined by illneſs) had occaſioned thoſe who had undertaken to manage his concerns, to act in a manner ſo unworthy; that a dangerous diſorder with which he had been long afflicted was growing worſe every day, and that he wiſhed much for a perſonal interview with Mr. Thomas before his death. In this letter, Appakandarow further urged, that the perſon whom he intended for his ſucceſſor being young and inexperienced, he wiſhed to avail himſelf of the benefit of Mr. Thomas's counſel, Appakandarow being from experience well convinced no other perſon would be equally intereſted with the welfare of his family. Finally he aſſured Mr. Thomas, that in the propoſed interview he would not only clear himſelf from the aſperſions of treachery, but arrange every thing to their mutual ſatisfaction and advantage.

This intimation excited no ſmall degree of ſurpriſe in Mr. Thomas, but from paſt experience he did not chuſe to place implicit re-

liance in the declaration of the Mahratta chief. He was thus reduced to a critical ſituation: for as on the one hand it was difficult to refuſe the requeſt of ſo powerful a chief; ſo on the other, a laudable regard for his perſonal ſafety, if treachery were intended, induced him to decline the propoſed viſit. From this ſtate of uncertainty and ſuſpenſe he was happily relieved, by intelligence of a numerous body of ſeiks having made an irruption into the Dooab, and were at that time committing depredations in the vicinity of Seharunpore, the capital of the late Gholaum Cadir Khan.

The apprehenſion of all parties was conſiderably augmented, when it was known that on their firſt onſet they had cut to pieces ſome battalions of Mahratta troops ſtationed for the defence of that province.

Although Appakandarow had no particular connexion with Seharunpore, he thought that, in common with other powers, he ought to exert himſelf to prevent further incurſions, eſpecially as his own diſtrict would in all probility be the next invaded by theſe deſperate ma-

rauders. He therefore directed Mr. Thomas to march with his whole force, and with all poſſible expedition, giving the moſt expreſs injunctions to fight the ſeiks wherever he might come up with them in the Mahratta territories.

Agreeably to theſe inſtructions, Mr. Thomas loſt no time in repairing to Jyjur; from whence, croſſing the Jumna to the northward of Delhi, he advanced rapidly towards the enemy. They not being inclined for the conteſt thought proper to retreat, croſſed the river, and returned unmoleſted to the Punjab. Mr. Thomas in this place remarks, that whilſt in the ſervice of Begum Sumroo he had encountered the ſeiks on more than one occaſion, and had already given them ſamples of his method of fighting; and though their number at this time was not more than five thouſand men, they had not only defeated the Mahrattas, but compelled them to take ſhelter in the fort of Jelalabad.

Luckwa, commander of the Mahratta forces, hearing of the diſgrace ſuſtained by his troops at Seharunpore, as likewiſe of the ſubſequent

flight of the ſeiks on Mr. Thomas's approach, now requeſted of Appa to permit this enterprifing man to raiſe a body of two thouſand men for the protection of the province of Seharunpore, and other parts of the Mahratta poſſeſſions. To this requeſt Appa, though with difficulty, complied; and in conſequence of the purgunahs of Panniput, Soneput, and Karnaul, were aſſigned to Mr. Thomas, for the payment of two thouſand infantry, two hundred cavalry, and ſixteen pieces of field artillery. Bappoo Scindiah was nominated to the government of Seharunpore; which with the country adjacent, at the period we are ſpeaking of, yielded an annual revenue of ten lacks of rupees.

The ſituation of the city of Panniput, and the celebrated canal in its neighbourhood, may perhaps juſtify a digreſſion in its favour, and curioſity will be gratified in the detail of its ancient and preſent ſtate.

Panniput is a city of great antiquity, and was inhabited by Mahomedans in the reign of Mahmoud of Ghuzna; who, during one of his

incurſions into Hindooſtan, ſettled a colony at that place. In the time of the emperor Shah Jehan, it was a populous city; and in the reign of Mahomed Shah, was ſelected by that prince as his principal reſidence. In the year 900 of the Hijira, or A. D. 1525, the Mogul emperor Mahomed Baber invaded Hindooſtan: Ibrahim Lodi of the Patan dynaſty at that time ſat on the throne of Delhi.

He prepared to reſiſt the invader; and aſſembling his forces, conducted them towards the frontiers. The rival armies met on the plains of Panniput; and a general engagement enſued, in which the forces of Ibrahim were totally defeated, and himſelf ſlain. The deceaſed monarch was interred on the ſpot where he fell, by the command of Baber, who directed a tomb to be erected to his memory. This tomb is ſtill to be ſeen, about three miles to the north-weſt of the city. In commemoration of the victory, the Mogul prince directed a magnificent moſque to be built on the ſpot where his own tent was pitched, on the eaſtern ſide of the city. It is called Cabil Baug.

This building, which exhibits one of the firſt ſpecimens of Mahomedan grandeur among the Mogul race of princes, conſiſts of a ſpacious apartment of forty feet ſquare, with others adjoining. It is ſurmounted at top by a magnificent dome, with ſix-and-twenty others of ſmaller dimenſions. Theſe are attached to different apartments on each ſide of the moſque. To the eye this building has a very grand effect, but it is difficult to deſcribe. The edifice is ſurrounded by a high wall of conſiderable length, and within the encloſure are convenient habitations for the attendants on the moſque. The wall is flanked with octangular pavilions of red ſtone, and the entrances through the gateways are of the ſame materials.

The plain of Panniput has likewiſe been celebrated in the hiſtory of modern times. It was on this plain that the famous battle was fought in 1762 between Ahamed Shah, the Duranny, and the Mahrattas. The latter were commanded by Viſwas Raou, a prince of the Mahratta empire, who was ſlain in the conteſt. The loſs of this action wreſted from the Mah-

rattas the ſovereignty of Hindooſtan; though the ſupineneſs and effeminacy of Ahamed Shah, after his ſucceſs, prevented his enjoying the fruits of his victory.*

The city of Panniput is ſituated in 29° 22′ of north latitude. Its circumference may be about four miles. It was formerly ſurrounded by a brick wall, which in many places is ſtill entire. This wall, and a noble caravanſera of ſtone adjoining the Delhi gate, was built at the expence of Nuwaub Roſhun Al Dowlah, grand-chamberlain of the houſehold to Mahomed Shah. The remains of the Delhi gate are ſtill handſome. It is built of brick, forty feet in height, arched at the top and flanked with towers of red ſtone, and is connected by

* The particulars of this battle have been too ably detailed by the pen of colonel Brown, in a letter to the Aſiatic Society, to require comments in this place. It is here ſufficient to remark, that no remains of the entrenched camp of the Mahrattas are now to be ſeen, the plain being perfectly level. But about a mile east of the city, two trees were pointed out to us by the natives, as the place where the Bhow's tent was pitched previous to the battle.

a rampart within the city wall. The exterior of this gateway is encruſted with very fine chunam, and decorated with paintings of flowers, in various patterns, executed in a ſtyle of peculiar neatneſs and delicacy.

In the centre of the city is the ſhrine of a Mahommedan devotee, by name Shah Shurfuddeen Boo Ali Culinder, the ſon of Furruckuddeen Iraki. Since his death, which happened in the 724th year of the Hijerah, this mauſoleum has been repaired ſeveral times. The tomb is ſituated at the upper end of a ſpacious ſquare, at the entrance to which is a ſcreen of perforated ſtone-work; beyond this is the verandah or portico, the roof of which is ſupported by four pillars of *ſungmuluk*, a ſpecies of black marble; the pillars are twelve feet in height, having pedeſtals of porphyry. The cieling of this portico is decorated with paintings of flowers on fine chunam; along the front of the veſtibule, on a ſlab of white marble, are engraved couplets in the Perſian language in black marble characters. Theſe verſes are in praiſe of the ſanctity of the deceaſed, and by the operation

of the arithmetical verſe called ABJUD,* give the date of his death in the 724th year of the Hijerah.

Within the dome is the grave of Boo Ali Culinder: it is ſix feet by three, of white marble, and is covered by a pall of rich brocade. The whole is ſurrounded by a lattice-work of wood. Above is a covering of green ſilk, ſupported by four pillars of wood, encruſted with mother of pearl.

The revenues of this tomb were formerly conſiderable; but moſt of them, during the troubles which have ſubſiſted in the upper provinces, have long ſince been confiſcated.

* The arithmetical verse called ABJUD, consists of the letters of the Arabic alphabet joined together so as to form articulate sounds, but without any meaning. It may be given as follows in *Roman character:*

Abjud, Huwwuz, huttee, Cullamun; Saufuz, kurshut sukkhuz, Zuzzug.

Each of these letters having a numerical property, from one to one thousand, by this operation the dates of inscriptions are discovered. See Richardson's Dictionary, article *Abjud.*

However, ſtill there are from four to five hundred perſons attendant on the ſhrine. Theſe ſubſiſt on the contributions of the charitable.

The city, though now much decayed, and the population reduced, formerly contained many good houſes. The bazars, of which there are two, are of conſiderable length, but narrow; they contain about three hundred ſhops tolerably well furniſhed. The trade of this place conſiſts in imports of ſalt, grain of all kinds, and cotton cloths: they export coarſe ſugar.

In the flouriſhing times of the empire, Panniput, ſituated in the high road to Lahore, Cabul, and Perſia, was the emporium of the caravans from the north, and the ſeat of an extenſive commerce. But the ravages occaſioned by the diſtracted ſtate of the empire, for more than half a century, have not only cauſed a ſad reverſe, but almoſt annihilated its commercial relations with other countries.

CANAL OF ALI MERDAN KHAN.

In the reign of Shah Jehan, Ali Merdan Khan, a nobleman of the court of Perſia, who had revolted from Shah Abaſs, entered into the ſervice of the Mogul prince, having previouſly delivered up the important fortreſs of Candahar, of which he was governor.

This nobleman, being a man of a public ſpirit and a pattern of munificence, dug at his own expence a canal from the vicinity of the city of Panniput, near the head of the Dooab, which extended to the ſuburbs of Delhi. It comprehended a tract of ninety miles in the extent, by which means the villages in the neighbourhood, and every where within its influence, received a moſt ſurpriſing benefit in the cultivation of their lands.

This noble canal* runs in a direction from north to ſouth, and is in general about ten miles diſtant from the Jumna, until it joins

* It is called by the natives NEHUR BEHEISHT, or "*canal of paradiſe.*"

that river nine miles below the city of New Delhi. From this canal, while it exiſted, a revenue was produced to the royal treaſury of fourteen lacks of rupees per annum. At preſent it is out of repair, dried up, and in many places almoſt deſtroyed; and in the hands of the Mahrattas, its preſent poſſeſſors, the cultivation of the adjacent country ſcarcely yields a lack of rupees.

CHAPTER IV.

Reſtoration to her authority of the Begum Somroo —account of Sirdhannah—death and character of Appakandarow—capture of Samli—Mr. Thomas marches to Panniput.

RESUMING our narrative after the foregoing digreſſion, it is neceſſary to remark that about this time Begum Somroo, whoſe depoſition from authority we have before noticed, ſtill remained a priſoner at Sirdhannah. In a manner the moſt abject and deſponding, ſhe addreſſed Mr. Thomas; ſhe ſtated her apprehenſions of being poiſoned, or otherwiſe put to death; affirmed that her only dependance was on him, implored him to come to her aſſiſtance, and, finally, offered to pay any ſum of money the Mahrattas ſhould require, on condition they would reinſtate her in her Jaghire.

On receipt of theſe letters, Mr. Thomas, by

an offer of 120,000 rupees, prevailed on Bappoo Scindia to make a movement towards Sirdhannah. Convinced from his former experience, that unleſs he could gain over a part of the troops under Zaffer Yab Khan to the Begum's intereſt, not only his exertions would be fruitleſs, but that ſhe herſelf would be expoſed to the greateſt perſonal danger, he therefore ſet on foot a negotiation for this purpoſe, in which having ſucceeded, he marched and encamped with his whole force at the village of Kathooleq, eight coſs to the north-eaſt of Sirdhannah. Here Mr. Thomas publicly gave out that unleſs the Begum was reinſtated in her authority, thoſe who reſiſted muſt expect no mercy; and to give additional weight to this declaration, he appriſed them that he was acting under the orders of the Mahratta chiefs.

This intimation was at firſt attended with deſired effect. Part of the troops belonging to the garriſon inſtantly mutinied, confined Zaffer Yab Kkan, and declared for the begum. Mr. Thomas, however, who well knew that no reliance could be placed on the capricious

temper of troops accuſtomed to frequent mutinies, loſt no time in advancing to Sirdhannah, but before he reached that place, a counter-revolution had already proclaimed the reſtoration of Sumroo's ſon.

Eſcorted by only fifty horſe of approved fidelity, Mr. Thomas entered the cantonments, having at the time he ſet out directed four hundred of his infantry to follow him with all poſſible expedition; the arrival of the latter force was particularly fortunate, as Zaffer Yab Khan, on Mr. Thomas's firſt appearance, perceiving him ſlightly attended, thought he had now got him into his power, and inſtructed his ſoldiers to threaten him with inſtant death; but at that moment the reinforcement above-mentioned arriving, and the mutineers thinking the whole Mahratta force was at hand, not only gave over their deſign, but now became as ſubmiſſive as they had before been inſolent.

Abandoning the cauſe of Somroo's ſon, they endeavoured, through the Begum's mediation, to deprecate the reſentment of the Mahratta commanders: to this the Begum having con-

ſented, an oath of fidelity was adminiſtered to the troops, and ſhe was finally reinſtated in the full authority of her Jaghire.

Somroo's ſon, after being plundered of his effects, was reconducted a priſoner to Delhi. Part of the ſum ſtipulated was now paid to Bappoo Scindia, and the remainder promiſed. An interview took place between the Begum and the Mahratta chiefs, when every thing being amicably adjuſted, the army quitting Sirdhannah repaired to their reſpective deſtinations.

The reſtoration of the Begum to her authority, affords us an opportunity of giving a detailed account of her Jaghire.

Sirdhannah, the reſidence of Begum Somroo, is the capital of a ſmall principality, ſituated in the centre of the Dooab, in latitude 29° 10′ north, and about thirty-five coſſes diſtant from Delhi. This Jaghire was from early times rich and fruitful: it was firſt peopled by a Hindoo rajah named Sirkhut. When the famous Mahmood of Ghuzna invaded Hindoo-

ſtan, he ſettled a colony of Muſſulmans in this diſtrict, and diſtributed lands to them in ſeveral parts of the country. When the poſterity of Timoor became firmly ſeated on the throne of India, Sirdhannah was firſt attached to the province of Sehaurunpore, ſituated at the head of the Dooab, and at the foot of the mountains called Sewalick. In the reign of Mahmood Shah it was aſſigned as a Jaghire to the famous Kummur Uddeen Khan; and ſubſequent to that period it was held by an omrah named Yacoob Ali Khan, of the court of Alumgeer the Second.

On the death of that monarch, the province of Sehaurunpore was poſſeſſed by the Nawaub Nujuff Khan, prime miniſter to the preſent king, and he allotted Sirdhannah and its dependancy to Somroo, a German, who had been in the ſervice of Coſſim Ali Khan, the depoſed ſubah of Bengal. This man is well known to the Engliſh by the ſhare he bore in the dreadful cataſtrophe of Patna. On the death of Somroo, which happened in the year 1776, Nujuff Khan delivered over the pergunnah to his widow the preſent Begum, on condition of

her keeping up a force of three battalions of infantry for the protection of the province.

When Nujuff Khan died, the Begum ſtill kept poſſeſſion of her jaghire, from which time until the period we are ſpeaking of, her ſituation has been fully detailed in recent publications.*

The habitation of Begum Somroo is in a large and ſpacious incloſure, equal in many reſpects to a fortified town. The houſe is well built, and handſomely furniſhed, partly after the European and partly after the Hindooſtany ſtyle: theſe blended together have a ſingular though not upon the whole an unpleaſing appearance. Hoſpitable in her manner, the Begum's table is furniſhed with every thing the country can afford. European articles of all kinds are procured from Calcutta.

It has been the conſtant and invariable uſage of this lady to exact from her ſubjects and ſervants the moſt rigid attention to the cuſtoms

* Consult the History of Shah Aulum.

of Hindooſtan. She is never ſeen out of doors, or in her public durbar unveiled.

Her officers and others, who have buſineſs with her, preſent themſelves oppoſite the place where ſhe ſits. The front of her apartments is furniſhed with *chicques* or Indian ſcreens, theſe being let down from the roof. In this manner ſhe gives audience, and tranſacts buſineſs of all kinds. She frequently admits to her table the higher ranks of her European officers, but never admits the natives to come within the incloſure. On dinner being announced, twenty or thirty of her female attendants, moſt of them chriſtians, repairing to the outer door, there receive the diſhes and place them upon table; they wait on the company during the repaſt, which is always plentiful and well ſerved.*

* Begum Somroo is about forty-five years of age, small in ſtature, but inclined to be plump. Her complexion is very fair, her eyes black, large, and animated; her dress perfectly Hindoostany, and of the most costly materials. She speaks the Persian and Hindoostany languages with fluency, and in her conversation is engaging, sensible, and spirited.

The Begum being thus reſtored to her authority, Mr. Thomas next received orders to proceed to Samli, and puniſh the commandant of that place for his conduct in encouraging the ſeiks in their intended incurſions into the Dooab, and having communicated to them the defenceleſs ſtate of the upper provinces.

After a fatiguing and difficult march of thirty coſs in one day, Mr. Thomas arrived before Samli.* An action took place, in which the commandant, after a moſt gallant reſiſtance, was defeated, and compelled to retreat into the town. Mr. Thomas, perceiving the

* Samli is a large town situated near the head of the Dooab, in the province of Sehaurunpore. It is two miles in circumference, and contains many handsome houses both of brick and stone. The streets intersect each other at right angles, and have separate gates at their entrances, which at night are shut for the security of the inhabitants. At Samli is a large bazar and a mint where money used formerly to be coined. But the trade of this place, like many others in the Dooab, is now much on the decline; and, with the exception of a few coarse cloths, the manufactures are at a stand. In its present state, the villages attached to the pergunnah of Samli yield a revenue of about 50,000 rupees, though in the flourishing times of the empire it was far more considerable.

neceſſity of bringing this affair to a ſpeedy concluſion, in the evening of the ſame day gave orders for an aſſault, and carried the place by ſtorm. The commandant, his ſon, and moſt of his adherents, were cut to pieces.

Having arranged the affairs of Samli, and appointed a civil governor on the part of the Mahrattas, Mr. Thomas repaired to the camp of Bappoo Scindia, with whom, by order of Appakandarow, he now acted in concert.

Bappoo Scindia, when joined by Mr. Thomas, was employed in the reduction of Lucnowty, a place of conſiderable ſtrength. A practicable breach being effected, preparations were made for ſtorming; when the commandant, ſeeing he was likely to be unſucceſsful in defending the fort, to ſave a further effuſion of blood, came privately to Mr. Thomas's tent, and there made terms for the delivery of the place, which, on the enſuing morning, were performed with punctuality.

A circumſtance now aroſe which had conſiderable effect not only with regard to the im-

mediate ſituation of Mr. Thomas's affairs, but in changing the future fortune of his eventful life.

Two days previous to the reduction of Samli, he received a letter from Appakandarow, in which that chief informed Mr. Thomas, that from continued illneſs his pains were augmented to a degree which had now become intolerable, and no hopes appearing of recovery from the cruel diſtemper under which he laboured, he had determined to put a period to his miſery by a voluntary death! For this purpoſe he was on his way to the Ganges, but requeſted of Mr. Thomas to come and ſee him once more before the ſcene was cloſed for ever.

On receipt of this intelligence, Mr. Thomas ſet out immediately to meet, and, if poſſible, afford conſolation to his deſponding chief; but he had not advanced far, when the melancholy intelligence reached him of Appakandarow's having voluntarily drowned himſelf in the river Jumna.

Such was the end of Appakandarow, a chief

intrepid and enterprizing, who, amid the tranſactions of later times, and the various revolutions of Mahratta politics in Hindooſtan, had borne an active and diſtinguiſhed part.

The death of Appa was on ſeveral accounts unfavourable to Mr. Thomas's intereſts. Vavon Row, his nephew and ſucceſſor, was a youth vain and inexperienced, and better adapted to the life of an accomptant than that of a general.

Inſtigated by the ſuggeſtions of perſons who ſurrounded him, the incautious youth was perſuaded to demand reſtitution from Mr. Thomas of the diſtricts which had been given him by his uncle, as an honorable reward for the ſervices he had performed. Agreeably to this reſolution, he had the weakneſs to order his troops to take poſſeſſion of the diſtricts in queſtion.

Mr. Thomas, indignant at a conduct he ſo little merited, peremptorily refuſed compliance with the order. He repreſented to that chief, by letter, the impropriety of his preſent proceeding; declared his firm reſolution to main-

tain poſſeſſion of the diſtricts; pointed out to him the fatal effects that muſt neceſſarily ariſe to both parties if the quarrel was purſued further; and, finally, for the ſake of peace, and to prevent future diſagreements, acquainted Vavan Row that he was willing to pay a ſum of money if left in quiet poſſeſſion.

Theſe remonſtrances, however founded on reaſon or juſtice, were of no avail: Vavon Row would liſten to no terms but the implicit ceſſion of the whole. The matter could therefore only be decided by an appeal to the ſword.

On Mr. Thomas's arrival at Hoſſellee, a large village forming part of his poſſeſſions, he perceived it in the hands of the enemy; and Vavon Row, prepared to defend it, encamped under the walls of the fort.

Unwilling to puſh matters to an extremity, if by any means it could be avoided, Mr. Thomas drew off his force to a ſmall diſtance, and gave particular orders to his own people to forbear all acts of hoſtility on their part. This mode of conduct was of no avail; for the

troops of Vavon Row coming daily from their own camp, inſulted and fired upon Mr. Thomas's men, by which ſeveral of them were ſeverely wounded.

The enemy, reinforced by a large body of the peaſantry, and headed by the zemindars of their reſpective villages, were now become ſo formidable, that Mr. Thomas reſolved to bring the buſineſs to an iſſue. He accordingly attacked them. The affair was quickly decided; the enemy fled in all directions; and the greater part, having taken ſhelter in the fort of Kuſſollee, were followed by Mr. Thomas, who immediately commenced the ſiege of that place. Having erected batteries, he ordered the grates for heating ſhot to be got in readineſs; which being done, he fired ſo ſucceſsfully with red-hot ſhot, that he quickly compelled them to ſurrender at diſcretion.

It was now agreed that an interview betwixt Mr. Thomas and Vavon Row ſhould take place at Kanond, whither the former had marched for that purpoſe. On his arrival, however, Vavon Row, pretending to be fearful

of treachery, refuſed to come out of the fort; and Mr. Thomas, for ſimilar reaſons, was unwilling to enter it. The negotiations were therefore broken off; and Mr. Thomas, continuing to conſider this Mahratta chief as an enemy, led his troops toward the frontiers.

This meaſure was rendered more neceſſary, and his attention called to the defence of his northern purgunnahs, which had recently been invaded by the ſeiks.

But the mention of this remarkable people, leading us aſide for a while from the ordinary courſe of our narrative, invites a detail of the preſent ſtate of the Punjaub, or country ſituated between the Indus and the Sutledge.

CHAPTER V.

Geographical deſcription of the Pũnjab,—of the Seiks, their manners, cuſtoms, forces, and reſources.

THE extenſive and fertile country deſcribed by Arrian and other antient hiſtorians, as comprehended within the five great rivers, the Hydaſpes, the Hydraõtes, the Acceſines, the Hyphaſis, and the Sutledge, is, by modern geographers, denominated Punjab.

On the north it is bounded by the mountains inhabited by the tribe called Yooſuf Zey; on the eaſt by the mountains of Naun, Serinnaghur and Jumbo; on the weſt by the river Sind or Attock;* and on the ſouth by the diſtricts of Panniput, and the province of Harrianah. It is two hundred and fifty coſſes from

* This river above the city of Attock is called by the natives Aba Seen.

north to ſouth, and nearly one hundred from eaſt to weſt. Notwithſtanding the ſtate of warfare in which the chiefs of Punjab are conſtantly involved, the country is in a ſtate of high cultivation; and though the population be great, grain is cheaper than in any other part of India. This advantage in a great meaſure is derived from the numerous rivers by which it is watered. Advancing from the ſouth, a traveller meets in rapid ſucceſſion the Serſooty, the Cugger, the Chowah, and the Sutledge.

The Serſooty, after paſſing the towns of Mooſtufabad, Shahabad, and Tehnaſſer, and overflowing the country on each of its banks, joins itſelf to the Cugger to the north-weſt of Kaythul.

The Cugger, on the contrary, after paſſing the towns of Bunnoor, Seyfabad, Puttialah, Jowhana, and Jomalpore, enters the country of the Batties at the town of Arwah, formerly the capital of the diſtrict. The Chowah, in like manner, after paſſing through an extenſive tract of country which it fertilizes and enriches, is finally loſt in the ſands of Sonaum.

The Panjab yields to no part of India in fertility of ſoil; it produces in the greateſt abundance, ſugar-cane, wheat, barley, rice, pulſe of all ſorts, tobacco, and various fruits; and it is alſo well ſupplied with cattle. The principal manufactures of this country are ſwords, match-locks, cotton cloths, and ſilks both coarſe and fine.

This nation, if united, could bring into the field from fifty to ſixty thouſand cavalry, but it is Mr. Thomas's opinion that they will never unite or be ſo formidable to their neighbours as they have heretofore been. Internal commotions and civil ſtrife have of late years generated a ſpirit of revenge and diſunion among the chiefs, which it will take a long time to overcome.

The number of cavalry which it is ſuppoſed this nation was able to aſſemble has been conſiderably over-rated, in conſequence of a cuſtom which formerly obtained among the Seiks, of forming an aſſociation of their forces under a particular chief. From this aſſociation of their forces they had the general intereſts of the community in view. To thoſe who were ig-

norant of the ſecret cauſes of the aſſociation, this junction of forces was frequently miſtaken for the army of an individual; and this error was perhaps increaſed by the natural partiality of the Seiks themſelves to magnify the force and enhance the character of their own nation.

It has been remarked, that the Seiks are able to collect from fifty to ſixty thouſand horſe; but, to render this number effective, thoſe who do not take the field, or who remain at home to guard their poſſeſſions, muſt be included.

Eſtimating the force of the different diſtricts, the aggregate will be ſeen in the ſubjoined ſchedule.*

	Cavalry.
* The diſtricts ſouth of the Sutledge, -	15,000
The Dooab, or country between the Sutledge and Beyah, - - -	8,000
Between the Beyah and Rowee, - -	11,000
Force of Bugheel Sing, chief of Pattialah, -	12,000
The countries above Lahore, the inhabitants of which are chiefly under the influence of Runjeet Sing, - - -	11,000
To which may be added the force of Nizamuddeen Khan, - - -	5,000
Roy Elias, - - -	1,300
Other Patan chiefs, in pay of the Seiks, -	800
Grand total -	64,000

By this ſtatement it will appear that the entire force of this nation, excluſive of the diſtrict held by Zemaun Shah, eaſtward of the Attock,* can amount to no more than ſixty-four thouſand men, and of theſe two-thirds might probably take the field, were a chief of experience and enterprize to appear amongſt them; but this in Mr. Thomas's opinion is highly improbable. The chief of moſt conſequence at preſent is Runjeet Sing: he having poſſeſſion of Lahore, which may be termed the capital of the Punjab, has acquired a decided aſcendancy over the other chiefs, though he be frequently in a ſtate of warfare with his neighbours who inhabit that part of the country ſituated between the Beyah and the Rawee. This chief is deemed by the natives as the moſt powerful among them. He poſſeſſes one thouſand horſe, which are his own property.

The repeated invaſion of the Punjab by ſmall armies, of late years, affords a convincing proof that the national force of the ſeiks cannot be

* These diſtricts are computed to reach from Sirhind to the banks of that river.

ſo formidable as has been repreſented. Several inſtances occur in ſupport of this aſſertion. Not many years ſince, Dara Row Scindia invaded it at the head of ten thouſand men; though not more than ſix thouſand of that number deſerved the name of troops, the remainder being a deſpicable rabble. Though joined on his march by two chiefs, Buggeel Sing and Kurrum Sing, he was at length oppoſed by Sahib Sing, the chief of Fyzealpore. That chief was encamped under the walls of Kuſſoor,* having the river Cugger in his front; was defeated in an engagement, and the enſuing day the fort ſurrendered. Sahib Sing then agreed to pay the Mahrattas a ſum of money, and moſt of the chiefs ſouth of the Sutledge having by this time ſubmitted to Dara Row, oppoſition was at an end.

It was ſucceſſively invaded by the armies of Ambajee, Bala Row, and Nana Furkiah, who drove the ſeiks repeatedly before them.

In 1800 Mr. Thomas himſelf entered their country at the head of five thouſand troops and

* Kussoor, a fort south of the river Sutledge.

ſixty pieces of artillery; and though by the inſtigation of enemies, who promiſed them aſſiſtance, the chiefs ſouth of the Sutledge and in the Dooab (or country between the two rivers*) combined againſt him, yet he penetrated as far as the Sutledge. During that campaign he never ſaw more than ten thouſand Seiks in one army: he remained in their country ſix months, two of which were paſſed without competition, and he finally compelled them to purchaſe peace.

Of late years the rajah of Serinnagur has likewiſe made ſome conqueſts in Punjab, chiefly between the Beyah and the Sutledge; and Nizamuddeen Khan, the patan before mentioned, has alſo acquired territory yielding a revenue of three lacks of rupees per annum.

The Seiks, though united, have never made any conſiderable oppoſition againſt the force of Zemaun Shah, who has frequently attacked them; but it may be urged, that a great difference is to be expected from a formidable

* The Beyah and the Sutledge.

army of ſixty thouſand men, led on by the Shah in perſon, and the princes of the blood, compared with the detached bodies already deſcribed. Hence it would appear that this nation is not ſo formidable as they have been repreſented, and in all probability they never will be formidable when oppoſed by regular troops.

The Seiks are armed with a ſpear, match-lock, and ſcymetar. Their method of fighting, as deſcribed by Mr. Thomas, is ſingular: after performing the requiſite duties of their religion by ablution and prayer, they comb their hair and beards with peculiar care; then mounting their horſes, ride forth towards the enemy, with whom they engage in a continued ſkirmiſh, advancing and retreating until man and horſe become equally fatigued. They then draw off to ſome diſtance from the enemy, and meeting with cultivated ground, they permit their horſes to graze of their own accord, while they parch a little gram for themſelves; and after ſatisfying nature by this frugal repaſt, if the enemy be near, they renew the ſkirmiſhing. Should he have retreated they provide forage

for their cattle, and endeavour to procure a meal for themſelves.

Seldom indulging in the comforts of a tent, whilſt in the enemy's country, the repaſt of a ſeik cannot be ſuppoſed to be either ſumptuous or elegant. Seated on the ground with a mat ſpread before them, a bramin, appointed for the purpoſe, ſerves out a portion of food to each individual, the cakes of flour which they eat during the meal ſerving them in the room of diſhes and plates.*

The ſeiks are remarkably fond of the fleſh

* Does not this circumſtance recall our ideas to the ſituation of Æneas and his companions, ſhortly after their landing on the coaſt of Italy? The condition of Æneas exhibits a ſpecimen of primeval ſimplicity of manners among the Romans, no leſs ſingular than the coincidence of cuſtoms exiſting in Punjab at the preſent day appears ſtrikingly intereſting.

Conſumtis hic forte aliis, ut vertere morſus
Exiguam in Cererem penuria adegit edendi,
Et violare manu malisq. audacibus orbem
Fatalis cruſti, patulis nec parcere quadris,
Heus! etiam menſas conſumimus, inquit Iulus.

Virg. Æn. lib. 7.

of the jungle hog, which they kill in the chace; this food is allowable by their law. They likewiſe eat of mutton and fiſh; but theſe being deemed unlawful the bramins will not partake, leaving thoſe who chuſe to tranſgreſs their inſtitutes to anſwer for themſelves. In the city or in the field the ſeiks never ſmoke tobacco: they are not, however, averſe to drinking ſpirituous liquors, in which they ſometimes indulge to an immoderate exceſs; and they likewiſe freely take opium, bang, and other intoxicating drugs. In their convivial parties each man is compelled to drink out of his own veſſel.

Accuſtomed from their earlieſt infancy to a life of hardſhip and difficulty, the ſeiks deſpiſe the comforts of a tent; in lieu of this, each horſeman is furniſhed with two blankets, one for himſelf and the other for his horſe. Theſe blankets, which are placed beneath the ſaddle, with a gram bag and heel ropes, comprize, in time of war, the baggage of a ſeik. Their cooking utenſils are carried on tattoos. Conſidering this mode of life, and the extraordinary rapidity of their movements, it cannot be

matter of wonder if they perform marches, which, to those who are only accustomed to European warfare, must appear almost incredible.

The Seiks, among other customs singular in their nature, never suffer their hair or beards to be cut: consequently, when mounted on horseback, their black flowing locks and half-naked bodies, which are formed in the stoutest and most athletic mould, the glittering of their arms, and the size and speed of their horses, render their appearance imposing and formidable, and superior to most of the cavalry of Hindoostan.

In the use of their arms, especially the matchlock and sabre, they are uncommonly expert; some use bows and arrows. In addition to the articles of dress which have been described in recent publications * of the times, Mr. Thomas mentions that the arms and wrists of the Seiks are decorated with bangles of gold, silver, brass, and iron, according to the circum-

* Consult the History of Shah Aulum.

ſtances of the wearers; but among the chiefs of the reſpective tribes, the horſe-furniture, in which they take the greateſt pride (and which, with the exception of the inlaying of their fire-arms, is their luxury), is uncommonly ſplendid; for, though a ſeik will ſcruple to expend the moſt trifling ſum on his food or clothing, he will ſpare no expence in endeavouring to excel his comrades in the furniture of his horſe, and in the richneſs and brightneſs of his armour; a circumſtance which appears to bear no inconſiderable reſemblance to the cuſtoms of the ancient Spartans.*

Conſiderable ſimilarity in their general cuſtoms may be traced with thoſe of the Jauts. Though theſe in ſome diſtricts apparently vary, the difference is not material; and their permitting an interchange of marriages with the Jauts of the Dooab and Harrianah, amounts almoſt to a concluſive proof of their affinity of origin.

The Seiks allow foreigners of every deſcription to join their ſtandard, to ſit in their com-

* See Cornelius Nepos, and Pausanias.

pany, and to ſhave their beards; but, excepting in the inſtance of the Jauts, they will not conſent to intermarriages; nor will they eat or drink from the hands of an alien, except he be a bramin, and for this caſt they always profeſs the higheſt veneration.

If, indeed, ſome regulations which are in their nature purely military, and which were introduced by their founder Nanick, be excepted, it will be found that the Seiks are neither more or leſs than Jauts in their primitive ſtate.

Thus far, ſays Mr. Thomas, we have ſeen the fair ſide of the picture; let us now conſider the reverſe.—The Seiks are falſe, ſanguinary, and faithleſs; they are addicted to plunder, and the acquirement of wealth by any means, however nefarious. Inſtances have occurred of a child's arm being raiſed againſt his parent, and of brothers deſtroying each other.

Women amongſt them are held in little eſtimation, and though ill treated by their

huſbands, and prohibited from accompanying them in their wars, theſe unhappy females nevertheleſs attend to their domeſtic concerns with a diligence and ſeduloufneſs deſerving of a better fate.

Inſtances, indeed, have not unfrequently occurred, in which they have actually taken up arms to defend their habitations from the deſultory attacks of the enemy, and throughout the conteſt behaved themſelves with an intrepidity of ſpirit highly praiſeworthy.

In the ſeik army, the modes of payment are various: but the moſt common is at the time of harveſt, when every ſoldier receives the amount of his pay in grain and other articles, the produce of the country; to ſome is given money in ſmall ſums, and to others lands are allotted for their maintenance. Three-fifths of the horſes of the Punjab are the property of the different chieftains: the remainder belong to the peaſantry who have become ſettlers.

A ſeik ſoldier has alſo his portion of the plunder acquired in the courſe of a campaign: this is ſet aſide as a reward for his ſervices; and

in addition to it, he ſometimes increaſes his gain by ſecreting part of the public plunder.

The nature of the ſeik government is ſingular, and probably had its origin in the unſettled ſtate of the tribe when firſt eſtabliſhed in their poſſeſſions. Within his own domains each chief is lord paramount. He exerts an excluſive authority over his vaſſals, even to the power of life and death; and to increaſe the population of his diſtricts, he proffers a ready and hoſpitable aſylum to fugitives from all parts of India. Hence, in the ſeik territories, though the government be arbitrary, there exiſts much leſs cauſe for oppreſſion than in many of the neighbouring ſtates; and hence likewiſe, the cultivator of the ſoil being liable to frequent change of maſters, by the numerous revolutions that are perpetually occurring, may be conſidered as one of the cauſes of the fluctuation of the national force.*

* In the above sketch of the situation and resources of the seik nation, Mr. Thomas does not include the territories of Zemaun Shah lying east of the Attock; part of which were, during the reigns of the emperors, included in the Punjab, and may therefore be considered as belonging to it.

CHAPTER VI.

Mr. Thomas defeats the Seiks—concludes an advantageous treaty—diſagreement with Bappoo Scindia—Mr. Thomas forms the deſign of eſtabliſhing himſelf as an independant chief—for that purpoſe ſelects the province of Hurrianah—his eſtabliſhment at Hanſi.

SUCH was the tribe againſt which Mr. Thomas now prepared to march. Leaving a force competent to the defence of Jyjur, which he expected would be attacked by Vavon Row, he marched to Karnâl, near which the Seiks lay.

Four ſucceſſive actions took place, attended with conſiderable loſs on both ſides; Mr. Thomas having loſt five hundred men, and the Seiks double that number. Both parties inclining to peace, a treaty was concluded, by which the Seiks agreed to evacuate the province, which was accordingly done.

As Mr. Thomas had foreſeen, he now received intelligence of Vavon Row having laid ſiege to Jyjur, to defend which he immediately marched back. On his approach, Vavon Row thought proper to retire. Mr. Thomas next determined to puniſh Caſhmiree Bolee, who, as before ſtated, had been the author and fomenter of all the differences which had occurred betwixt him and Vavon Row. Mr. Thomas, therefore, fell ſuddenly on the pergunnah of Daderee, which belonged to Caſhmiree Bolee, and laid it under contribution.

From hence he was called away to aſſiſt Bapoo Scindia againſt a body of Rohillas, who, inſtigated by Nevil Sing, a ſeik chief, had croſſed the Ganges, and invaded his poſſeſſions near the head of the Dooab. But previous to Mr. Thomas's arrival, the Mahratta chief had not only defeated the invaders, but followed up his blow by laying ſiege to the enemy's capital.

A body of Sciks had aſſembled to aſſiſt him; but, on the approach of Mr. Thomas's force, thought proper to ſeparate; and Bapoo Scin-

dia, not deeming the capture of this fort worth the trouble it would take to gain poſſeſſion, of his own accord ſoon after raiſed the ſiege, and returned to Seharunpore. Mr. Thomas remained with his force at Soneput, a city twenty-ſix miles ſouth of Panniput, the neighbouring country, barren and deſolate.

North of this city is a mauſoleum erected by Khizzer Khan, a Patan nobleman, deſcended from the royal family of Sheer Shah. This building is an octagon, ſurmounted by a ſpacious dome, and ornamented at the top with a cullis of copper gilt. The interior of the mauſoleum is of grey ſtone, the cornices are embelliſhed with ſculpture ornaments of red freeſtone, and around the lower part of the dome runs a ſtone border, on which are engraved verſes from the Koran in Arabic characters. The front of the building is decorated with roſes cut in freeſtone, of a brown colour; the whole uncommonly delicate, and has been finiſhed with more than uſual attention.

The pergunnah of Soneput compoſes part of the Jaghire of Deſmouk, ſon-in-law of Scin-

dia, and yields an income of ſeventy-five thouſand rupees. But in the reign of the emperor Mahomed Shah, this pergunnah, in conſequence of the benefit it derived from its vicinity to the noble canal of Ali Merdan Khan, is ſaid to have yielded a revenue of nine lacks of rupees.

In the environs of Soneput, a traveller firſt meets with the *coſs minar*, or Indian mile-ſtone. It is a round pillar of brick, ten feet in height, and placed on each ſide of the road, at the diſtance of about three Engliſh miles from each other. They were erected by order of the emperor Jehan Gheer, and formerly extended from Lahor to Agra. Adjoining to each of theſe pillars is a well, lined with brick, near which are ſtone benches expreſsly for the accommodation of travellers.

Mr. Thomas had not long remained at Soneput, when rumours of the arrival of Zemaun Shah, king of Cabul, at Lahore, induced Bappoo to meet and conſult with him on the preſent emergency.

Mr. Thomas accordingly repaired to Bappoo; but his troops having again fallen in arrears, were become clamorous for payment: this conduct giving offence to Bappoo, a misunderstanding took place between him and Mr. Thomas, when the latter in disgust marched away.

He was soon after attacked by Bappoo's force, who, on hearing of the retreat of the shah, had determined on punishing Mr. Thomas for what he termed his late misbehaviour. An action ensued; but the commander of Bappoo's troops being wounded in the conflict, he thought proper to remove to a distance.

An amicable arrangement between the parties would now have taken place, had not the Seiks in Bappoo's army, aware of Mr. Thomas's intention to enter the Punjab, used their utmost exertions to widen the difference. Hostilities being again renewed, an action took place at the passage of the Jumna; and though the country people had by this time joined the Mahrattas, Mr. Thomas, by a spirited attack, compelled them to leave him a free passage.

Straitened for proviſions, he proceeded on his route to the north-eaſt frontier. In his retreat, he was followed by Bappoo's army; and the troops of Begum Somroo, as alſo thoſe of Ragojee, governor of Delhi, had now increaſed the number of his enemies.

Over this combined force, however, he proved victorious; and having defeated the enemy in every attempt to interrupt him on his march, he at length reached the neighbourhood of Panniput. Here, on account of his inferiority in force, he was compelled for the preſent not only to relinquiſh the frontier towns, but to confine himſelf to Jyjur. Thither he ſhortly after arrived. Unable to ſatisfy the demands of his troops, Mr. Thomas now determined to levy contributions on the territories of his neighbours. For this purpoſe he led his army to Oreecha, a large and populous town belonging to the rajah of Jypore.

As a ranſom for this place, Mr. Thomas demanded of the governor a lack of rupees; which being denied, he ſtormed and took poſſeſſion of the city. The fort, which was ſeparate, ſtill

holding out, he was on the point of making a ſecond aſſault, when the killadâr agreed to ranſom both for fifty-two thouſand rupees. During the negotiations the town had unfortunately been ſet on fire; which burnt ſo fiercely, that it was with difficulty extinguiſhed, and not until goods to the amount of ſeveral lacks of rupees had been totally conſumed.

About this time a reconciliation was effected betwixt Mr. Thomas and Vavon Row, when it was agreed to adjuſt all former differences; and Mr. Thomas, to evince the reconciliation was on his part ſincere, brought under obedience to Vavon Row ſeveral refractory zemindars. He now entered the Jypore country the ſecond time; and the Meenas, a thieviſh tribe inhabiting a part of the country on his route, about thirty coſs north of Jypore, having formerly invaded Vavon Row's poſſeſſions, Mr. Thomas attacked them in force, and in a very ſhort time annihilated this neſt of banditti. After theſe tranſactions, Mr. Thomas returned to Jyjur.

At this place, about the middle of the year

1798, he firſt formed the eccentric and arduous deſign of erecting an independant principality for himſelf. The country of Hurrianah, which, from the troubled ſtate of the times, had for many years acknowledged no maſter, but became in turn the prey of each ſucceeding invader, appeared to him as beſt adapted for the execution of his purpoſe.

The ſcarcity of water, however, in this part of India, induced Mr. Thomas to poſtpone his intended expedition until the approach of the rainy ſeaſon. Having reinforced his army, and being well provided with every thing neceſſary to enſure ſucceſs, he commenced his march,

His firſt attack was directed againſt the town and fort of Kanhoree, the inhabitants of which place were notorious for their thieviſh depredations. Advancing with celerity, Mr. Thomas, according to his uſual cuſtom, attempted to carry the place by ſtorm. In this, however, he was not only prevented by the ſpirited conduct of the enemy, but compelled to retreat with the loſs of three hundred of his men.

In conſequence of this ſevere check, it became neceſſary to fortify his camp; and the conſtant and heavy rains which now fell preventing his erecting batteries, he fortified a chain of poſts round the town, and thereby prevented any ſuccour from without.

The garriſon he well knew was ſtraitened for proviſions; and the ſiege, thus converted into a blockade, augmented their diſtreſs. The enemy, by frequent ſallies, endeavoured to interrupt Mr. Thomas's operations. In one of theſe, an attack was made on the redoubt occupied by himſelf. In the confuſion attendant on a buſineſs of this nature, the greater part of his people, being panic-ſtruck, ran away. Mr. Thomas was thus reduced to a ſituation truly critical: five men only remained with him of the infantry, to whom had been allotted the particular charge of his fire-arms, conſiſting of piſtols and blunderbuſſes of a large ſize. With theſe, and the aſſiſtance of a few horſemen, who had likewiſe adhered to him, he maintained the poſt for a conſiderable time againſt every effort of the enemy; and at

length, by repeated and well-directed discharges, compelled them to retreat.

A few days after this occurrence, the weather becoming more favourable, and Mr. Thomas having rallied the fugitives, erected a battery, from which he fired with such good effect, as to bring down a considerable part of the wall; but night intervening before he could prepare for storming, the assault was delayed until the ensuing day. It was however rendered unnecessary by the enemy's having evacuated the town during the night.

The best and bravest men of Hurrianah being in this town, Mr. Thomas reduced the other places with but little resistance. In a short time he gained complete possession of the whole south part of the province; but the north-western part being occupied by the Batties, the rajah of Pattyalah, and other seik chieftains, it cost him considerable time and much trouble to establish his authority as far as the river Cauggur.

The successful termination of this campaign,

Territories
LAHORE the Capital
of Rungeet Sing
Country of Roy Tolaun
George Thomas
PANIPUT
DELHI
AGRA
DESERT of about 60 COSS from EAST to WEST
HURRYANA
Frontier
Rajpoote
MAHRATTA
SKETCH
of the Country North West
of
DELHI,
to the
Southern Bank of the River Ravee;
including the Districts of Hurryanah & Bykaneer,
Arranged from Materials
delivered to Government
by
Mr GEORGE THOMAS,
Bengal Army
1802.
Remarks
SCALE of English Miles

affords us an opportunity of preſenting a detailed account of the country poſſeſſed by Mr. Thomas; with ſome relative obſervations on the nature and quality of the ſoil, and on the general character of its inhabitants.

In the diſtrict called Hurrianah, ninety miles to the north-weſt of Delhi, is the country of Mr. George Thomas. It extends eighty coſs from north to ſouth, and the ſame diſtance from eaſt to weſt. To the northward it is bounded by the poſſeſſions of Sahig Sing, chief of Puttialah, on the north-weſt by the Batties, weſt by the dominions of Beykaneer, and ſouth by Jypore, ſouth-eaſt by the pergunnah of Dadaree, eaſt by the diſtricts adjoining to Delhi, and north-eaſt by the cities of Rhotuck and Panniput. That part of the country more immediately occupied by Mr. Thomas, is in ſhape nearly oval, and extends from ſixteen to twenty-four coſs* in different directions. The northern boundary is formed by the river Cauggur, beyond which are the ſeik territories. To the ſouth it is bounded by the town of Behal,

* Conſult the map.

eaſt by Mahim, and weſt by Behadra, containing in all eight hundred villages.

Within this tract of country, as in moſt parts of Hurrianah, water is ſcarce, more eſpecially during the hot ſeaſon. To remedy this inconvenience, the inhabitants have conſtructed wells of conſiderable depth, not unfrequently from one hundred and twenty to one hundred and fifty feet.

In addition to this each diſtrict has two or three tanks faced with ſtone. Theſe afford a plentiful ſupply of water until the approach of the hot winds of the enſuing ſeaſon, when they are dried up. The number of wells differ according to the induſtry of the reſpective inhabitants. At Hiſſâr, for inſtance, are three hundred; at Hanſi, thirty; at Mahim, one hundred; Tuhana has only ſix; and ſome of the ſmaller towns from two to five. In this country the Cauggur river is of the greateſt ſervice to the inhabitants. It is overflowed during the rainy ſeaſon by the acceſſion of the ſtreams which iſſue from the mountains; and on the retiring of the waters, leaves, like the

waters of the Nile, a rich and greaſy earth, which yields an abundant crop of the fineſt wheat. Other parts of Mr. Thomas's poſſeſſions produce joar, rice, bajerah, and various ſorts of pulſe, chunah, and barley; but the latter depends on the rain that may fall from the month of October to Chriſtmas. Within the aforementioned tract, the paſturage is uncommonly luxuriant, and produces perhaps the largeſt ſupply of forage to be met with in any part of Aſia. The graſs in Hurrianah is alſo of a very ſuperior quality, both as to wholeſomeneſs and nouriſhment. Hence the cattle excel thoſe of other parts. The climate is in general ſalubrious; though, when the ſandy and deſert country lying to the weſtward becomes heated, it is inimical to an European conſtitution.

The *peyook*, or Guinea-worm, ſo common in ſeveral parts of Arabia and Perſia, is likewiſe extremely troubleſome in this province. To ſome it proves dangerous; though it is remarked by Mr. Thomas, this diſorder ſeldom attacks Europeans, and is in general confined to the peaſantry of the country.

The Peyook, or Guinea worm, the *dracunculus persarum* of Kœmpfer,* is found chiefly on the ſhores of the Perſian gulf, and in the ſouthern parts of Perſia; more eſpecially in the province of Carmania, and on the iſland of Ormuz. The origin and progreſs of the diſorder occaſioned by this ſingular worm, is deſcribed by Kœmpfer in his Amœnitates Exoticæ, with ſo much accuracy and ſpirit, that we hope to be pardoned in preſenting our readers with an extract from this valuable work, which, it is much to be regretted, has not hitherto been given to our countrymen in an Engliſh dreſs.†

* Vide Kœmpfer's Amœnitates Exoticæ, Faſciculus 3d, Obſervatio 4th, p. 529.

† In lucem proditurî nuncia plerumque eſt febricula, ut plurimum ephemera, non nunquam in tertiam diem protracta, cum fetæ partis rubidine et tumore; in quo poſtridie exſurgit poſtula piſi magnitudine, tenera, aquoſa, pellucida, non raro atricolor: qua poſt unum aut alterum diem ſpontè ruptâ vel acu apertâ, proſilit lumbrici ſummus apex, ſive roſtellum, ibidem hactenus abſconditum, quod pedetentim et reliquum corpus undecunque ſubſequitur, blandâ attractione quotidié ſolicitatum. Sæpè etiam non niſi prævió partis dolore, et duritie vix ſenſibili naſcitur; rupto ibidem, quo perpetuo ſibi viam parat, ul-

The natives of Hurrianah for a ſucceſſion of ages having been in a conſtant ſtate of warfare,

cusculo, sine epidermidis pustula. Excretio pro lumbrici magnitudine et maturitate citiori, tum pro situ et loco generationis vario, facilior est aut difficilior, longior aut brevior: raro autem pariter et vivus, frequentissime successivo tempore, diebus circiter decem, extrahitur. Omnium felicissime egreditur, qui in scroti cavo absconditur, nam hunc, barba exerta, vivum illico educimus, sine dolore et purulenti ulceris incommodo. Supra musculum aliquem in crure aut brachio non admodum dispersus jacens, vel in gyrum volutus, qualis oculo et tactu deprehenditur, intra paucos dies, a quo maturare incipit, sine notabili pure et molestia, quin vel uno interdum nisu extrahitur. Ex femore et ulnis plerumque facili partu exit, diebus admodum paucis. Sita vago ligamenta pedis involvens admodum difficulter, mora videlicet viginti vel amplius dierum, exciuditur, cum tabo quotidie copiosissime magnoque ægroti cum dolore et incommodo.

The time when the worm is about to appear, is indicated by slight feverish symptoms in the patient; it is sometimes protracted until the third day, when the part is affected by a red tumor, which on the ensuing day becomes a pustule of a bright black: this breaking of itself, or being pierced with a needle, the head or snout of the worm makes its appearance, and as quickly withdraws itself from the touch. To extract the worm, great patience and caution are necessary, as from unskilfulness in handling it frequently breaks, which not only causes acute pain to

poſſeſs great perſonal bravery; they are expert in the uſe of arms, particularly in the exerciſe

the patient, but the part remaining degenerates into an incurable ulcer. The time necessary for extracting this worm is longer or shorter, according to its size, but it is seldom taken out entire before the expiration of ten days. It sometimes lies dispersed above a muscle, at other times it is found in the interstices of the muscles of the legs and arms, or convoluted; it is laid hold of with an armed needle. A few days from the time in which it begins to maturate it may be extracted without pain or any considerable discharge of matter, except when it is withdrawn by a first attempt. From the thighs and arm-pits it makes an easy exit within a few days: when it appears among the tendons of the feet, great delay is experienced. It takes up twenty days in the operation, which is moreover attended with a copious discharge of matter, and severe pain to the patient.

The general mode adopted in India for the extraction of this worm, is by means of a small round piece of bamboo, to which is attached a thread. This being fixed to the worm, so much of the thread is wound round the body as to prevent its retiring again within the flesh. In this state it remains until the ensuing day, when a little more is added to the former, until the whole is extracted. By this curious process, it is easy to be perceived the extreme care that is necessary to prevent its breaking.

Travellers have at various times been afflicted with this disorder; for myself I never experienced it, though it was

of the lance, ſabre, and the matchlock;* but though brave, they are in diſpoſition cruel, treacherous, and vindictive; and when engaged in domeſtic quarrels, ſcruple not to kill their antagoniſt on the ſlighteſt and moſt trivial occaſions.

For his capital, Mr. Thomas ſelected the town of Hanſi;† this place is ſituate ninety

common to the inhabitants of Perſia, during my reſidence in that country, many years ſince. The ſpirited and intelligent Bruce got it after his return from Abyſſinia to Grand Cairo. In like manner this worm is extracted from the negroes on the coaſt of Africa, who attribute the cauſe of this complaint to the badness of the water.

* Mr. Thomas adduced several inſtances of their deſperate reſolution, and almoſt invincible courage, once againſt the celebrated Ismaul Beg, at the town of Bhowanny, and a ſecond time againſt the attacks of Gopaul Row, the Mahratta general. The army of the latter was defeated at Sanghee, after an unſucceſsful ſiege of forty days.

In an aſſault againſt the fort of Deighle, Appakandarow, though attended by a ſelect and well-appointed army, was repulſed with conſiderable loſs.

† The ſubjoined ſchedule contains an account tolerably accurate of the country held by Mr. Thomas, including the

miles north-weſt of Delhi, and nearly in the centre of his newly-acquired domains. The town ſtanding upon a hill is peculiarly well adapted to a permanent reſidence.

No water can be procured within ſeven coſs, but the garriſon have an ample ſupply of that

names of the ſeparate pergunnahs, the number of villages formerly inhabited, compared with its present ſtate; the revenues, bearings, and diſtances of each pergunnah being taken from Hansi, the capital.

Pergunnahs.	Former number of villages.	Number of villages now inhabited.	Former Revenue.	Present Revenue.	Coss: bearing and diſtance from Hansi.
Hansi, - -	84	32	2,50,000	60,000	Coss,
Benwala, - -	46	11	63,000	11,000	14 N.
Tohana, - -	74	26	1,20,000	25,000	34 N.
Jemaulpore, - -	70	16	1,10,000	70,000	36 N. N. W.
Augrowa. - -	44	3	70,000	8,000	24 N. W.
Hassar, - -	250	13	3,00,000	10,000	12 W.
Bahra, - -	24	18	40,000	12,000	30 W. S. W.
Seedmuck, - -	70	4	30,000	6,000	24 S. W.
Sevance, - -	70	11	50,000	14,000	24 S.W. by S.
Telam, - -	74	18	70,000	16,000	12 S.
Maheem, - -	24	16	50,000	23,000	16 E. S. E.
Safydoo, - -	24	8	30,000	10,000	36 E. N. E.
Jaind, - -	72	66	2,00,000	70,000	18 E. N. E.
Cásohan, - -	24	11	50,000	16,000	24 N. E.
	950	253	14,30,000	2,86,000	
Held by Mr. G Thomas of the Mahrattas.					
Jiger, - -	250	90	3,00,000	80,000	40 E. S. E.
Byree, - -	24	16	30,000	14,000	35 E. S. E.
Maundotee, - -	24	11	30,000	10,000	44 E.
Pathoda, - -	4	4	1,00,000	10,000	51 S. E.
Radlee, - -	72	30	1,20,000	1,20,000	48 E. S. E.
Total	374	151	5,80,000	1,44,000	
Grand Total	1324	404	20,10,000	4,30,000	

neceſſary article from ſeveral wells within the fort. This circumſtance renders difficult an attack, except at the ſeaſon of the periodical rains. "Here," ſays Mr. Thomas, with that energy and ſpirited animation which diſtinguiſhed him throughout the ſcenes of his extraordinary life, "I eſtabliſhed my capital, "rebuilt the walls of the city, long ſince fallen "into decay, and repaired the fortifications. "As it had been long deſerted, at firſt I found "difficulty in procuring inhabitants, but by "degrees and gentle treatment I ſelected "between five and ſix thouſand perſons, to "whom I allowed every lawful indulgence.

"I eſtabliſhed a mint, and coined my own "rupees, which I made current in my army "and country; as from the commencement "of my career at Jyjur, I had reſolved to "eſtabliſh an independency, I employed work-"men and artificers of all kinds, and I now "judged that nothing but force of arms could "maintain me in my authority. I therefore "increaſed their numbers, caſt my own artil-"lery, commenced making muſquets, match-"locks, and powder; and, in ſhort, made the

" beſt preparations for carrying on an offen-
" ſive and defenſive war; till at length having
" gained a capital and country bordering on
" the Seik territories, I wiſhed to put myſelf
" in a capacity, when a favorable opportunity
" ſhould offer, of attempting the conqueſt of
" the Punjab, and aſpired to the honour of
" planting the Britiſh ſtandard on the banks
" of the Attock."*

* To carry his plans into effect, and for the support of his troops, Mr. Thomas appropriated a part of the revenue arising from the lands granted by the Mahrattas, and with much judgment and discernment, naturally inherent in liberal minds, endeavoured to conciliate the affections of his men by granting pensions to the widows and children or nearest relations of those soldiers who fell in his service. These pensions, amounting to 40,000 rupees per annum, were regularly paid to the respective claimants, a mode which reflects the highest credit on Mr. Thomas's character, but which had long since been anticipated by the wisdom of the British government in rewarding their veteran sepoys. The payments were made every six months, and the nearest relation of the deceased, whether officer or soldier, received the half pay of his rank. This and the expence of casting cannon, the fabrication of small arms, and purchase of warlike stores, consumed that part of Mr. Thomas's revenues which he derived from the districts granted him by the Mahrattas, as detailed in the foregoing schedule.

CHAPTER VII.

Reflections.—Mr. Thomas reſolves to invade the Jypoor territory.—Geographical and ſtatiſtical account of that country.—Revenues, hiſtory, manners and cuſtoms of the inhabitants.

HAVING accompanied Mr. Thomas through a ſeries of ſervices, as intereſting in their nature as ſingular in their reſult; having beheld him from the ſituation of a fugitive, a friendleſs and deſerted object, now by the force of his own exertions, and an intrepidity of ſpirit ſcarcely to be paralleled, obtain a ſituation ſeldom equalled by the moſt fortunate; we muſt next proceed to trace the cauſes and deſcribe the progreſs of thoſe events which led to a decline of his authority, and in the end, as the only means of ſafety and eſcape from the perſecution of numerous and inveterate foes, compelled him to ſeek an aſylum in the territories of his native ſovereign.

Not however to anticipate the order of events, it will now be neceſſary to recur to Mr. Thomas's ſituation when in poſſeſſion of his newly acquired country. His mind having been long intent on the reduction of the Punjab, he would now have ſet out on this intereſting expedition, but on a review of his troops made for the purpoſe, he found his force inſufficient to the taſk, and was therefore induced to have recourſe to an excurſion into the Jypore dominions, which had hitherto afforded a never-failing ſupply to his neceſſities, and whoſe ruler was in conſequence become his bitter enemy.

The ſituation of the Jypore dominions, and their relative importance among the ſtates of Rajpootana, will juſtify a detail of the ſtrength and internal reſources of this intereſting country. The dominions of Jypore are nearly one hundred coſs from north to ſouth, and fifty from eaſt to weſt; they are bounded on the north by the diſtrict of Hurrianah, on the north-eaſt by Alvar, eaſt by Karolee and Bhurtpoor, ſouth by Kota, Boondee and Mewar, ſouth-weſt by Kiſhenghur, weſt by Ajmere and Joud-pore, and on the north-weſt by the country of Beykaneer.

The eaſtern, north-eaſtern, ſouthern and ſouth-weſtern parts of Jypore produce wheat, cotton, tobacco, and in general whatever is common to other parts of India; to which may be added, excellent cattle, and abundance of good copper.

The country in general is watered from the wells: the northern and north-weſtern diſtricts being ſandy are not ſo well ſupplied with this neceſſary article as the midland parts; but in that part of Jypore which is mountainous, the ſtreams that iſſue from thence are of the higheſt advantage to the cultivation of the ſoil.

The Rajpoots of Jypore are not eſteemed ſo brave as thoſe of Joudpore, for which Mr. Thomas imagines three cauſes may be aſcribed:—firſt, the encroachments of the prince on the feudal ſyſtem, which obtained formerly in this country, and which has contributed to render the people abject and ſlaviſh; ſecond, that their armies are commanded by people whom they neither love, fear, or reſpect; and thirdly, the difference of climate, which is particularly ob-

ſervable in a compariſon with the ſtature and perſonal comelineſs of the Rhatores with thoſe of Jypore, the inhabitants of the former being by far more robuſt in their make.

No Rajpoot engages in trade, or any mechanical occupation whatſoever: they are all, without exception, either ſoldiers or huſbandmen.

They are of a high and unconquerable ſpirit, and do not think poverty any diſhonour: on the contrary they will often aſſert in converſation, that provided a perſon ſhall conduct himſelf with propriety towards his neighbours, he, whether poſſeſſed of riches or not, is, in all reſpects, to be conſidered as a man of perfect honour.

Among other cuſtoms peculiar to the Rajpoots the preſervation of female honour holds with them a ſuperior ſtation; ſcandal uttered againſt the wife or daughter of a Rajpoot is never forgiven, and death alone can expiate the offence.

This high ſenſe of honour has, however, rendered them of all other people moſt circumſpect in converſation, and they are careful of giving offence; ſhould a Rajpoot ſuſpect a perſon inclined to ſlight him, he will not only forego every proſpect of advantage to be derived from the uſual mode of reconciliation, by the mutual exertion of common friends, but will even make a circuitous route to avoid paſſing by the habitation of his antagoniſt. This ſeverity of manners may appear to ſtrangers, at a firſt view, to be prohibitory; but a long reſidence in the country, and intimate acquaintance with the manners and cuſtoms of this extraordinary people, have long ſince convinced Mr. Thomas that a perſon of upright manners cannot aſſociate with a better companion than a Rajpoot.

In their marriages they pay the ſtricteſt attention to caſt, and will never unite themſelves with people of inferior condition; this is ſo unavoidably neceſſary, that were a man to enter into an alliance with a family of ignoble blood, the children of ſuch marriage would in conſequence be deprived of their right of inhe-

ritance; a ſtriking inſtance of national pertinacity.

A plurality of wives, though allowed by their inſtitutions, excepting among the higher order of Rajpoots, is ſeldom practiſed; and even in that inſtance it is more owing to motives of policy than inclination, and ariſes chiefly from a deſire of extinguiſhing thoſe antient feuds which have ſo long ſubſiſted among families.

During their infancy and childhood, the Rajpoot women being kept in a conſtant ſtate of concealment, when once married are ſeldom ſeen but by the very neareſt in blood among their own relations. This cuſtom is ſo rooted among them, that a lady would conſider herſelf as diſhonoured by any expoſure of her perſon to public view.

This ſecluſion of females in ſouthern Aſia, has been erroneouſly ſuppoſed by many perſons to be a hardſhip on the ſex; but, in Mr. Thomas's opinion, it is underſtood in a ſenſe rather too general; in every other reſpect, the Rajpoot character yields to no nation in Aſia, or perhaps

in the world, in maintaining the ties of relationſhip and conſanguinity, by a ſeries of the kindeſt actions towards each other. They are dutiful ſons, kind huſbands, and affectionate brothers.

The men, it is true, are in the higheſt degree jealous of their honour, but the exempting their women from perſonal labour, in employing them though ſecreted from the reſt of the world, in ſuperintending the education of their children, and other domeſtic avocations, cannot ſurely with juſtice be conſidered as a hardſhip. "And "if we look," ſays Mr. Thomas, "at the con-"dition of the inferior ſort of women in moſt "parts of Europe, the ſituation of the Rajpoot "females may be, perhaps, benefited by the "compariſon."

One cuſtom, and one alone, obtains among this infatuated people, at which nature muſt ever revolt, and humanity ſhudder: it is the practice of putting to death their new-born females. In other reſpects tender and affectionate towards their offſpring, it was a matter of extreme ſurprize to Mr. Thomas that in this

inſtance the Rajpoots ſhould ſo far exceed the bounds of natural affection.

From motives of curioſity, he was induced to demand their reaſon for allowing of this horrid practice; the reply in general was, "it is our cuſtom;" but when Mr. Thomas remarked that was but a bad plea for the commiſſion of the horrid crime of murder, they would then urge the poſſibility of their daughters meeting with bad huſbands, who might hereafter bring diſgrace and diſhonour on their poſterity; or, that the infants themſelves might, at ſome future period, commit actions unworthy of the name of Rajpoots. "Should this reaſoning hold," ſaid Mr. Thomas, "and the Rajpoot "nation, in this particular, were to be all of "the ſame mind, they would in the ſpace of "one hundred years, or much leſs time, become "extinct." This argument enforced with pertinacity, had, for a time, the effect of carrying apparent conviction of the impropriety of a cuſtom ſo unnatural, and he had the ſatisfaction to obtain frequent promiſes from ſome reſpectable families in that country, that they would diſcontinue the practice in future. This

promiſe he afterwards learnt had, in ſome inſtances, among their own relations been happily carried into effect.

With theſe exceptions the Rajpoots may be conſidered as honourable, brave, and faithful; and few nations who are not in poſſeſſion of the advantages of education, or thoſe benefits which ariſe from the refinements of civilized life, can be ſaid to be poſſeſſed of more good qualities, or benevolence of diſpoſition.

This benevolence of diſpoſition is exhibited in a peculiar manner towards the Jauts, who are cultivators of the ſoil, for though the Rajpoots keep them under the ſtricteſt obedience, and do not allow them more than is neceſſary for their ſubſiſtence, deprive them of the honour of bearing arms, except it be on the actual invaſion of their frontiers; notwithſtanding theſe circumſtances, apparently ſo degrading, the farmer acknowledges that he lives happily under the government, and that his ſtate of poverty is, by the mildneſs in manners exhibited towards him by his ſuperiors the Rajpoots, converted into content.

The rajah of Jypore, rich in reſources of every kind, is in fact a very powerful prince; his cavalry may be computed at not leſs than thirty thouſand men. He has twelve thouſand infantry in his ſervice, excluſive of five or ſix thouſand mercenaries. In this ſtatement are not included the aids which he would be enabled to draw from his connections with the neighbouring countries of Joudpore, Oudepore, and Beykaneer, to whoſe rulers he is allied by blood. His artillery is numerous, and well-appointed, "and in ſhort," ſays Mr. Thomas, "an alliance with this prince, in caſe of ne-"ceſſity, may be one day deemed not unwor-"thy the precaution and foreſight of the Britiſh "government in Aſia."

One thing only tends to mark a deficiency in the otherwiſe ſound policy of this prince, which is, the appointment of people of inferior rank to high commands in his army.

Naturally high-ſpirited and haughty, a Rajpoot is, of all other people, moſt averſe to ſerve under a perſon whom he conſiders his inferior.

Hence ariſes the impolicy of the rajah, who has of late years introduced into commands in his army, ſervants, mechanics, and even ſlaves. Theſe men, deſtitute of talents or conduct, cannot be ſuppoſed to poſſeſs that independancy of ſpirit which alone excites to the performance of great actions. In juſtification of the rajah's meaſures in this inſtance, it has however been aſſerted by ſome, that the difference of caſt and condition makes none in reſpect to courage: which Mr. Thomas obſerves may hold good with reſpect to European troops, or even Indian troops diſciplined and conducted by European officers, as, in that inſtance, they may be conſidered as a machine actuated and animated by the voice of the commander; but in an Indian army, where diſcipline never exiſted, little can be expected from chiefs who in their actions are not ſtimulated by a ſenſe of perſonal honour.

The Rajpoots, therefore, who compoſed the greater number of the troops in the Jypore army, deeming theſe commanders inadequate to perform the duties of their ſtation, became conſequently indifferent in their acknowledge-

ment of authority: theſe men, moreover, from a conſtant reſidence at the court of a gay and luxurious prince, for ſuch is the character of the reigning ſovereign, have aſſumed the manners of courtiers, and indulge in too frequent ridicule on the plain and honeſt ſimplicity of Rajpoot manners; while the latter, from their haughtineſs of ſpirit, and the diſguſt conceived at this treatment, never fail, on the ſlighteſt token of diſreſpect, to revenge the inſult, by putting the aggreſſor to inſtant death.

Among the recreations of the Kutchwah Rajpoots, the exerciſe on horſeback forms a diſtinguiſhing feature. If ever, by chance, they ſhould be neceſſitated to combat on foot, it is only in defence of their houſes and families. Their arms conſiſt of a lance and ſabre; and though the rajah, of late years, has introduced the muſquet and matchlock, they make but little uſe of theſe weapons. They have, in common with other Rajpoots, a thick quilted jacket, which, like armour, will reſiſt with effect the ſtroke of a ſcymeter.

The country of Jypore is capable of yielding

an annual revenue of one hundred and twenty lacks of rupees; though from the nature of its government, the amount paid into the rajah's treaſury now ſeldom exceeds ſixty lacks. This may be accounted for by conſidering that the feudal ſyſtem prevailing throughout the dominions of Jypore leſſens thereby the actual revenue of the ſtate. The reſpective chieftains hold their lands in Jâiedad, and for the expreſs purpoſe of affording a body of troops in times of emergency, which cannot be diſpenſed with. To this certain expence are to be added the occaſional exactions of the ſovereign upon particular chiefs, and conſequent diminution of the effective military force.

The chiefs of the diſtrict termed Sheckhawathy in particular, who in former times could contribute their quota towards the exigencies of the ſtate, by bringing ten thouſand men into the field, and who from great military experience and length of ſervice, were juſtly conſidered as the beſt ſoldiers in the Jypore army, can now with difficulty muſter three thouſand men. Of late years theſe troops have become not only extremely diſguſted with the ſervice,

occaſioned by the cauſes already detailed, but have evinced a ſpirit of diſcontent and diſſatisfaction, which in the event of civil diſcord threatens to prove highly detrimental to the general intereſts of the community.

The Rajpoot princes of Jypore are of the tribe called Kutchwa, and tracing their origin from a remote antiquity, this illuſtrious family in the annals of the empire are called Beni Suruj, or children of the ſun. They originally ſettled in the ſouthern parts of the province of Gualior, and drew their lineage from rajah Ramchunder, a prince of high celebrity.

It appears from the Hindoo books called Ramayoon and Muhubhârat, that rajah Ramchunder had two ſons, the one named Nubh, and the other Kooſh. The deſcendants of the former are denominated Burhagoojer, and thoſe of the latter Kutchwayah. Pirthi Raj* the

* Pirthi Sing, aforementioned, was the founder of a dynasty, denominated Duazdah Kutchoory, or the twelve partitions; ſo called from the number of his ſons, among whom, to prevent animoſities, he during his lifetime divided his dominions into as many ſeparate parts.

firſt ſovereign who mounted the throne of Jypore, in the æra of Bekermajeet,* 1559, died in 1584.

The deſcendants of the Rajahs of Ambeer having eſtabliſhed themſelves in the fineſt parts of the peninſula, for a ſeries of years were poſſeſſed of high authority and extenſive dominion. Among theſe Maun Sing, a prince renowned in the annals of the empire, aſſumed a leading part; others, following his example, in ſucceſſion contributed to the permanent eſtabliſhment of their family, by acts of no leſs wiſdom than benevolence.

The dry and unintereſting matter contained in a genealogical detail can be gratifying to none; it will therefore be ſufficient to remark, that the ſucceſſion of the Rajpoot princes from their founder continued for ſeveral centuries to fill the throne of Jypore; and our preſent detail will conclude by obſerving, that in the records of the royal family of Ambeer, there

* For the æra of Bekermajeet conſult Mr. Gladwin's Ayeen Akbery.

exists a table of two hundred and fifteen princes from rajah Ramchunder to Purtaub Sing, the present sovereign.*

* In the foregoing detail the compiler has great satisfaction in offering his best thanks to Colonel Palmer, late ambassador at the Poonah Durbar; to Captain John Baillie, professor of the Arabic and Persian languages; and to the gentlemen students in the Persian and Arabic classes in the college of Fort William, founded under the auspices of his excellency the most noble Marquis Wellesley: Colonel Palmer having most obligingly communicated to him some M.S. matter on the genealogy of the Rajpoot princes of Jypore, Joudpore, and Oudipore; and Captain Baillie having, with no less kindness, suggested to his pupils the translation of it as a voluntary exercise during their vacation hours.

CHAPTER VIII.

In an expedition againſt Jypore, Mr. Thomas is joined by Vavon Row.—Their proceedings.—Account of the city of Futtahpore.—Approach of the Jypore army.—Battle of Futtahpore.

IN returning from a digreſſion, which it is hoped will have afforded our readers ſome relief from the tedium of narrative detail, it is now neceſſary to remark, that about this time Luckwah, commander in chief of the forces of Scindiah north of the Nerbuddah, ſent orders to Vavon Row to invade Jypore; and in his letter on that ſubject, having mentioned the ſum exacted by his predeceſſors in office from each of the diſtricts, he recommended Vavon Row to demand an equal proportion on the preſent occaſion, as a reward for the ſervice to be performed: he moreover allowed Vavon Row ten annas in the rupee, from the money thus collected, to be divided among the troops,

and the remaining ſix annas to be ſent to his own treaſury.

Vavon Row, on receipt of the above order, wrote preſſing letters to Mr. Thomas, inviting him to join in the propoſed expedition; but he, though willing to make a temporary incurſion to Jypore to obtain preſent relief to his neceſſities, was by no means inclined to go the lengths propoſed, and at firſt from prudential motives declined the offer.

Mr. Thomas moreover was not ignorant that the ſubſiſtence of ſo large a body of troops on an expedition like the preſent, could only be obtained by a full treaſury, and his own reſources were at preſent dried up. That the numerous cavalry which the Jypore rajah could bring into the field would very much impede their efforts in procuring the neceſſary ſupplies of forage and proviſions; and that without theſe aids the ſucceſs of the expedition would be very doubtful; and finally, he remarked to Vavon Row, that even if ſucceſs attended their arms the rajah would never pay to them the

ſum ſpecified, but would refer the matter to Luckwah himſelf, whereby they would loſe the fruits of their labours. Theſe ſuggeſtions, however ſalutary in their deſign, could not perſuade Vavon Row to give up his ſcheme, or convince him that their united force was incompetent to the preſent conteſt.

That chief now ſent his vakeel to Mr. Thomas, promiſing him a ſum of money, of which he ſtood in great need, for the proffered aſſiſtance, and he at length cloſed with the propoſal.

His force at this time conſiſted of three battalions of four hundred men each, with fourteen pieces of artillery, ninety horſe, three hundred Rohillas, and two hundred of the peaſantry of Hurrianah, with which he joined Vavon Row at Kanond.

That chief had himſelf one battalion of infantry, four pieces of artillery, nine hundred cavalry, and ſix hundred irregulars. With this force they commenced their march towards Jypore. On entering the country, a party of

the Rajah's troops ſtationed to collect the revenues retreated; when the chief of the diſtrict ſent vakeels into Mr. Thomas's camp, who agreed to the payment of the two years' tribute which had been named by Luckwah.

The offer was accepted, and the troops marching forward compelled ſeveral others to ſubmit to ſimilar exactions. For near a month the united armies continued their progreſs without interruption; but the rajah of Jypore, who had in the interim been collecting his troops, now marched to the relief of his poſſeſſions, with a reſolution to puniſh the invaders, and revenge the inſult he had ſuſtained, by giving battle wherever he ſhould meet with his enemies. The army thus collected, amounted to forty thouſand men, with which the rajah marched againſt Mr. Thomas and Vavon Row, who, not having yet got poſſeſſion of any place from whence a ſupply of grain could be drawn, became ſenſible of their error, and were reduced to a ſituation truly hazardous. Vavon Row deeming it impoſſible to encounter ſo large a force, now acquainted Mr. Thomas that he muſt rely on his own exertions; that from

the numbers and acknowledged bravery of the enemy, who were chiefly Rajpoots, there could exiſt but ſmall hope of ſucceſs in riſking an engagement, and for theſe conſiderations adviſed Mr. Thomas to retreat. To combat theſe arguments, and fruſtrate a deſign ſo puſillanimous in its nature, Mr. Thomas reminded Vavon Row of his haſty and inconſiderate conduct in leading them into their preſent exigency, that there exiſted no cauſe to prevent at leaſt one trial of ſtrength, their own troops being faithful to them, and in high ſpirit to engage; that moreover, to think of a retreat on the preſent occaſion, without an exertion on their part, would be a diſhonour to himſelf and his progenitors, who never turned their backs on an enemy; and finally obſerved, that if Vavon Row now receded, he never could again expect to be employed by Scindiah, or any other chief under his authority. Theſe arguments combined at length made an impreſſion on the mind of Vavon Row, and he agreed to riſk an engagement.

With this determination, they marched forthwith to the city of Futtahpore, in which

they expected to meet with a ſupply of grain ſufficient for the conſumption of their troops; but on their arrival the inhabitants, who had received intimation of their approach, were buſily employed in filling up the wells in the neighbourhood, in order to diſtreſs the troops for water. They had nearly completed this deſign, only one remaining open, when Mr. Thomas arrived.

The poſſeſſion of this remaining well now became the object of contention betwixt Mr. Thomas and a body of four hundred men who had been detached from the city for the expreſs purpoſe of filling it up. Mr. Thomas, who perceived no time was to be loſt, ordered his cavalry to charge. The action was at firſt obſtinate; but two of the enemy's ſirdars being killed, the reſt retreated, and the well was happily preſerved. This was of great importance, as except in this ſingle ſupply no water was to be procured but from a conſiderable diſtance.

The ſervice on this day was uncommonly ſevere, as Mr. Thomas had completed a march of five-and-twenty miles over a deep ſand,

which in moſt places was above the ancles of his men; he was therefore glad to encamp, and afford ſome repoſe to his fatigued troops.

As the city of Futtahpore was marked in Mr. Thomas's military career, as a place of ſignal ſucceſs, an account of it may not perhaps be deemed intruſive.

Kaieem Khan, a Tartar nobleman, accompanied the ſtandard of the Moguls on their firſt invaſion of Hindoſtan; and as a reward for his military ſervices on that occaſion had been preſented with the government of the adjoining country of Hurrianah and Jinjinnoo, where he ſettled with his family and adherents.

In proceſs of time, however, the Mogul princes who ſat on the throne of Delhi, unmindful of the ſervices of this illuſtrious family, endeavoured to effect their ruin; and finally by a tyrannical procedure, expelled them from the province. On their expulſion they ſought an aſylum in the dominions of Jypore, by whoſe ruler they were kindly received, and where they remained until the preſent time. The city

of Futtahpore was allotted for their reſidence: where, ſince that period, the deſcendants of Kaieem Khan have continued to reſide, retaining, along with the name of their founder, the characteriſtic energy and military ſpirit of the tribe; and are to this day termed by the natives *Kaieem Khanee*, or deſcendants of Kaieem Khan.

The city of Futtahpore being full of people, Mr. Thomas, in order to ſave the effuſion of blood, was deſirous to treat with the inhabitants for its ranſom; but the demands of Vavon Row were ſo exorbitant, that they declined compliance.

The Mahratta chief aſked no leſs a ſum than ten lacs of rupees, whilſt the townspeople only offered one, encouraged perhaps by the hope of receiving aſſiſtance from the rajah of Jypore, who was rapidly advancing to their relief.

During theſe negotiations night came on, and nothing was done reſpecting the propoſed ranſom: ſome perſons, however, who had been

ſent into the city by Mr. Thomas to protect the place until they could make the terms of ſurrender, unluckily began to plunder the inhabitants; which circumſtance ſo exaſperated the commandant, that he broke off all further treaty, and the united force then took poſſeſſion of the place by ſtorm. This was ſcarcely effected, when intelligence of the rajah's approach was announced to Mr. Thomas, who then thought proper to fortify his camp, which he did in the following manner. In the neighbourhood were abundance of large thorn-trees, which are common in the weſt of India: a ſufficient number of theſe were cut down, and, by Mr. Thomas's direction, piled one upon another in the front and flanks of his camp, his rear being ſecured by the city of Futtahpore. To render it more impenetrable, the branches of the trees* being cloſely interwoven

* It is remarkable that Mr. Thomas, who had read very little, should, from the resources of his own mind, have adopted a mode of defence parallel with one related in the History of Modern Europe. Speaking of the approach of the British army under the command of General Abercromby, in the war of 1758, against the fort of Ticonderago, in North America, "The French (says the historian)

with each other, were then made faſt with ropes, thus forming *chevaux de frize* to keep off the cavalry; and laſtly a large quantity of ſand was thrown between the branches which pointed outwards toward the enemy.

A trench could not be dug, as the ſand was ſo looſe in its quality that the excavations were inſtantly filled up as ſoon as made: but the abbatis above-mentioned was on ſeveral accounts highly ſerviceable, particularly as it not only ſecured Mr. Thomas from the attacks of the enemy's cavalry, but afforded protection to the camp. He next directed batteries to be made for the defence of the different wells in the neighbourhood, which had by this time been cleaned out and opened afreſh for uſe. He took poſſeſſion of and fortified the city in the beſt manner that the ſhortneſs of the time

" were ſtationed under the cannon of the place, behind an " *abbatis* or breaſt-work formed of the trunks of trees " piled one upon another; and they were farther defended " by whole trees, with their branches outward, ſome of " which were cut and ſharpened ſo as to anſwer the pur- " poſe of *chevaux de frize*."—See Ruſſel's Hiſtory of Modern Europe, vol. v. p. 288.

admitted; ordered a large ſupply of proviſions to be brought into his camp; and had ſcarcely finiſhed theſe preparations, when the vanguard of the enemy's army appeared in ſight.

On their arrival, the enemy encamped within four coſs of Mr. Thomas, and ſoon after puſhed on a detachment of cavalry and infantry to clear the wells in the neighbourhood. For two days he allowed them to proceed with their work uninterruptedly; but on the third morning, he with two battalions of infantry, eight pieces of artillery, and his own cavalry, marched out with a reſolution to attack their grand park of artillery, leaving directions to the battalion that remained behind to attack and diſperſe the advanced party before-mentioned. On his departure, he left a written paper for Vavon Row, requeſting that chief to follow with the remainder of his cavalry, and with the infantry which he had with him, to provide for the ſecurity of the camp.

Mr. Thomas was diſpoſed to act in this manner from his experience of the Mahrattas, who he well knew, if acquainted with his plans,

could keep nothing ſecret, but would, by divulging them, put the enemy on their guard. It was night when he ſet out; and a tumbril being upſet on the road, occaſioned conſiderable delay in their progreſs, ſo that the day began to dawn before the evil was repaired; and, to add to his mortification, on arriving near the camp, he perceived the enemy aſſembled under arms, and ready to receive him.

It was now too late to carry his firſt deſign into execution. He puſhed on, however; and, coming up with a party who now advanced to meet him, attacked them to the number of ſeven thouſand men with great ſpirit and vigour. The enemy made but a feeble reſiſtance, and ſoon after withdrew to their main body, having ſuſtained conſiderable loſs. The wells which had been cleaned out were again filled up; and Mr. Thomas, after collecting the horſes and other cattle which had been left on the field, returned with his detachment to camp. On his way he met with the Mahratta cavalry, who ſeemed much out of humour that they had not been conſulted on ſo important an occaſion: but Vavon

Row, their chief, repreſſed their pride by telling them plainly, that their own delay in accoutring was the real cauſe of their diſappointment.

Mr. Thomas's officers now received khilluts* from the Mahratta chief; and, to prevent animoſities, ſimilar marks of honour were beſtowed, though with reluctance, on the officers of the Mahratta horſe.

Preparations were now making by the enemy to bring on a general engagement, which proved far greater in its conſequences than either party had foreſeen. The next morning at day-break, Mr. Thomas was informed that there was a great buſtle in the enemy's camp, and ſhortly after received intelligence of their actual approach in order of battle. He had determined in his own mind the ſpot where he would engage; and as he well knew no reliance could be placed on the Mahrattas, he was neceſſitated to leave a part of his infantry, and four ſix-pounders, to guard

* Dresses of honour.

the camp and cover his rear, which was in danger of being ſurrounded by the enemy: with the remainder, conſiſting of two battalions of infantry, two hundred Rohillas, his cavalry, and ten pieces of artillery, he prepared for the encounter.

The Mahrattas, on ſeeing the immenſe force they had to cope with, gave themſelves over for loſt; and Mr. Thomas was in a manner compelled to fight this important battle without aſſiſtance.

After ſome manœuvres on either ſide, he was glad to find that the enemy diſtributed their army as he wiſhed.

Their right wing, conſiſting of the whole force of the Rajpoot cavalry, was deſtined to the attack of his camp; and ſo certain were they of victory, that, on perceiving the ſtockade we have before deſcribed, they laughed at the idea that *a few buſhes*, as they were pleaſed to term them, could for a moment retard their progreſs, or reſiſt the impetuoſity of the attack. The left wing, conſiſting of four thouſand Ro-

hillas, three thouſand Ghoſſeins, and ſix thouſand irregular infantry, commanded by the chiefs of their reſpective diſtricts, advanced at the ſame time with haſty ſtrides and loud ſhouts, to take poſſeſſion of the city, the loſs of which, by cutting off the ſupply of water, would have been attended with the moſt ſerious conſequences.

Their third, or main body, was compoſed of ten battalions of infantry, twenty-two pieces of artillery, and the *fillah poſh*, or body guard, of the rajah, conſiſting of ſixteen hundred men armed with matchlocks and ſabres, and commanded by Rajah Roorojee Khavies, as generaliſſimo of the army. Notwithſtanding this immenſe force, Mr. Thomas derived great advantage from the poſition in which his troops were drawn up; his front and flanks being ſecured by the fortified camp, and his rear by the city of Futtahpore.

The enemy's cavalry now advancing in cloſe and compact order, the Mahrattas, who were poſted in the rear, ſent to require a reinforcement; and accordingly Mr. Thomas, though

he could ill ſpare it, ordered four companies and two of the guns which had been left for the protection of the camp, to march out and join him; while, with three guns and five companies of infantry, he advanced to repel the attack of the enemy's horſe. His main body was commanded by John Morris, an Engliſhman, "who, though a brave man (ſays "Mr. Thomas), was better adapted to con-"duct a forlorn hope than to direct the mo-"tions of troops in a field of battle." Mr. Thomas having taken poſſeſſion of a very high ſand-bank, the enemy were thus placed between two fires, and could neither charge him or attack the camp; they conſequently began to draw off: but perceiving he had but few cavalry, and thoſe being in his rear, on a ſudden made a furious charge upon them, by which the perſon who commanded, and ſeveral other brave men, were inſtantly cut to pieces; and it was not until the advance of two companies of grenadiers, who, after having given their volley, charged with bayonets, that the enemy, thus expoſed, were compelled to retreat; and had the other diviſions of their army behaved with equal ſpirit, the day would

have been their own. It was not, however, until their cavalry retreated, that the body deſtined to take poſſeſſion of the city thought proper to advance a ſecond time, having already once been driven back with conſiderable loſs. Within the city Mr. Thomas had poſted the Hurrianah infantry, and one hundred Rohillas, who, having fortified the higheſt and the ſtrongeſt of the houſes, could maintain themſelves againſt all attacks, excepting thoſe of artillery. Of this circumſtance the enemy were aware; and accordingly now detached ſix pieces of cannon againſt the city, with orders to renew the combat. Mr. Thomas, on ſeeing their cavalry draw off from the field, was thereby enabled to ſuccour thoſe. He attacked the enemy inſtantly, and with ſo much vigour, that he compelled them to withdraw the artillery, and retreat. Their main body had by this time become a confuſed maſs, without order, regularity, or method. The enemy, notwithſtanding, was determined to riſk the iſſue of the day on a general charge on Mr. Thomas's main body. But their general was not met on this occaſion with equal ardour by his troops; and Mr. Thomas, per-

ceiving them at a ſtand, commenced a heavy fire of grape ſhot from his guns, when, after ſuſtaining much loſs, the enemy retreated; and Mr. Thomas at this time ordered his battalions that had ſuffered the leaſt in the late conflict to advance in the purſuit. This, however, could not now be effected: the bullocks attached to the artillery, having been ſtationed behind a ſand-bank in the rear, could not be brought up with the expedition the emergency of the caſe required. At this time the Mahratta cavalry, who, during the preceding part of the conflict, had ſtood aloof, came forward with their ſervices in this purſuit. After ſome delay, Mr. Thomas, having procured a ſufficient number of bullocks for one of his guns, advanced with that and a battalion of infantry againſt the enemy; while the Mahratta horſe, to wipe off the diſgrace they had before ſuffered by their inactivity, joined in the purſuit.

The enemy were retreating in all directions; and Mr. Thomas prepared to take poſſeſſion of a pair of twenty-four pounders, which remained near the ſpot where he ſtood, and directed ſome of his people to carry them into

the rear. At this inſtant a large body of Rajpoot cavalry advanced ſword in hand to reſcue the guns, when the cowardly Mahrattas, without ſuſtaining a ſingle aſſault, quitted the field. Mr. Thomas, perceiving the enemy continued to advance, drew up his troops as well as the ſhortneſs of time permitted; but before he was completely formed, the Mahratta horſe, in their puſillanimous flight, had broken through his left wing, and were followed cloſely by the Rajpoots, who began to cut down a great number of his men. Theſe gallant ſoldiers made a brave reſiſtance; many of them, even in the agonies of death, ſeized hold of the bridles of the enemy's horſes. The moment was critical; and to Mr. Thomas pregnant with future miſchief. With the only gun that remained, which he loaded up to the muzzle, and about one hundred and fifty of his followers, who bravely determined to conquer or die with him, he waited the event with fortitude. After permitting the enemy to approach within forty yards, he gave his fire, accompanied at the ſame time by a volley of muſquetry, with ſuch conſiderable effect, that great numbers of the enemy were inſtantly

knocked down. This firſt effort, being followed by two other diſcharges, completely routed the enemy, and drove them from this well-conteſted field.

The Mahratta horſe, who had been the chief cauſe of the late diſaſter, had in the interim haſtened to the camp for protection, but were by Mr. Thomas's order refuſed admittance; and a ſmall party of Rajpoots, who had followed in their rear, put ſeveral to death without mercy.*

The enemy's infantry, perceiving the attack made by the horſe, began by this time to rally, and ſeemed inclined to renew the action. To afford them an opportunity of ſo doing, Mr. Thomas, having collected the remains of his gallant detachment, waited the attack. The day approaching to a cloſe, the enemy thought proper to retire; and Mr. Thomas, after ſearching in vain for the twenty-four pounders which he had once poſſeſſed during the action, re-

* Throughout the whole of this action, Mr. Thomas ſpeaks in terms moſt indignant of the diſgraceful behaviour of his allies.

turned with his army to camp. In this action, in killed and wounded, Mr. Thomas loſt three hundred men (amongſt the latter of whom was the gallant Morris); that of the enemy amounted to more than two thouſand, excluſive of horſes and other valuable effects, which they were compelled to leave behind on the field of battle.

CHAPTER IX.

Military operations continued.—Mr. Thomas compelled to retreat.—Diſtreſs of the army.—Peace concluded.—Mr. Thomas marches againſt the rajah of Beykaneer.—Geographical deſcription of that country—of the Lackhi Jungle.—Military operations.—Mr. Thomas enters into engagements with Ambajee.

ON the enſuing morning, Mr. Thomas notified to the enemy's general that he might ſend proper perſons to bury the dead, and carry away the wounded men without interruption on his part. This civility was received with attention, accompanied at the ſame time with a requeſt to treat for peace.

Vavon Row, as a previous ſtipulation, inſiſted on the payment of a large ſum of money to indemnify him for loſſes ſuſtained during the campaign. To this the other objected, upon the principle of not being authoriſed by the

rajah of Jypoor to diſburſe ſo large a ſum without further orders. On receiving this anſwer, Mr. Thomas, ſuſpecting that the enemy only waited for time to procure a reinforcement, recommended to Vavon Row the proſecution of hoſtilities. That chief was averſe to the propoſal, as he deemed the performance of mamla, or agreement, preferable to the hazard and riſk of a ſecond engagement, and therefore he overruled Mr. Thomas's objections. The negotiations for peace were therefore broken off. The enemy, having collected the ſcattered remains of their forces, took poſt on their former ground. In the mean time letters from Scindiah arrived, requeſting Vavon Row to deſiſt from hoſtilities againſt the troops of Jypoor. Others of ſimilar import came from Mr. Perron, who had lately ſucceeded General Duboigne in the chief command of Scindiah's forces.

The enemy now of their own accord offered to pay the ſum of fifty thouſand rupees, which being moſt unaccountably rejected, Vavon Row had much reaſon to repent. During the late negotiations conſiderable reinforcements had arrived in the Jypoor camp, and hoſtilities re-

commenced with redoubled vigour on both ſides.

Mr. Thomas's troops from a want of forage, which they were obliged to collect from a diſtance of twenty miles from the camp, ſuſtained much inconvenience. In attempts to bring it in they were moreover haraſſed by detached parties of the enemy; and to complete their diſtreſs, the rajah of Beykaneer had by this time reinforced the Jypore army with five thouſand men. The Mahrattas in Mr. Thomas's camp, wholly uſeleſs, were fit only to plunder and deſtroy the unreſiſting peaſantry. Thus ſituated, and forage continuing to decreaſe, a council of war was held between Vavon Row, Mr. Thomas, and the other commanders, in which it was unanimouſly agreed to attempt a retreat to their own country.

Agreeably to this reſolution, the next morning before day-break, the troops began to file off, but were ſcarcely got in motion when the enemy's whole force came up to the attack. While it continued dark, great confuſion prevailed; but on the appearance of day-light, Mr.

Thomas, having formed his men, compelled the enemy to retreat with great loſs.

They ſtill continued to hang on his rear, and annoy him with the fire of artillery, aſſiſted by an immenſe quantity of rockets. From the rapidity of his march the enemy's heavy guns were ſoon obliged to remain behind, and the rocket and the matchlock men alone continued thepurſuit. The day was intenſely hot, and the troops ſuffered ſeverely from a total want of water; this cauſe, however, operating in a ſimilar manner upon the enemy, prevented the execution of their plans. The ſervice was ſevere, and in the higheſt degree fatiguing; at length after a toilſome march, Mr. Thomas arrived in the evening at a village, where he fortunately met with two wells, containing plenty of excellent water. His men, eager to catch a refreſhing draught, crowded ſo faſt upon each other that two fell into the well, by which accident one of them was inſtantly ſuffocated, and the other with much difficulty brought out alive. Care was now taken to prevent a renewal of ſimilar accidents, by ſtationing an armed force to protect the well, till by degrees moſt of the troops

having received a ſmall ſupply, the confuſion ceaſed, and order was reſtored in the camp.

The enemy ſtill followed in the rear, and encamped within two coſs. Mr. Thomas determined to renew the attack the enſuing day.

Mr. Thomas, perceiving that his men had loſt their accuſtomed ſpirits, to encourage them marched himſelf, on foot, at their head, during the whole of the enſuing day.

The enemy frequently appearing inclined to charge, Mr. Thomas directed the commandant of artillery to keep up a conſtant fire in the rear. This, in ſome degree checked their ardour, and afforded an opportunity to his own troops to move on. After a ſecond day's march, attended by circumſtances of diſtreſs ſimilar to the preceding one, though with conſiderable loſs to the enemy, Mr. Thomas arrived at a large town; in the neighbourhood of which he was gratified with the ſight of an ample ſupply of water, from five wells.

Here the enemy deſiſting from the purſuit,

Mr. Thomas had time to direct his attention to the ſituation of his own troops. The ſick and wounded were conducted to a place of ſafety, together with the hoſtages which had been received from the enemy on the commencement of the late negotiations; and having reſted and refreſhed his men, Mr. Thomas recommenced hoſtilities on the enemy's country, and, by a ſucceſſion of exactions and fines, ſoon obtained money ſufficient to defray his expences, and ſatisfy his troops for their arrears.

By this time, the rajah of Jypoor, ſenſible of the injury which his country would ſuſtain by theſe depredations, once more ſent perſons to offer terms to Vavon Row, for the evacuation of his territories. The terms were accepted, a ſum of money paid, and hoſtilities ceaſed.

On the concluſion of the tranſactions, Mr. Thomas determined to retaliate on the rajah of Beykaneer, and puniſh him for the aid which he had afforded the prince of Jypoor the preceding year.

To comprehend, however, the nature of this

expedition, it will be neceſſary in this place to recur to a geographical and ſtatiſtical ſketch of this remarkable country.

The province of Beykaneer is bounded on the north by the country of the Batties, weſt by the deſert, ſouth-weſt by Jeſſelmere, and ſouth by Joudpoor; ſouth-eaſt by Jypoor, and eaſt by the diſtrict of Hurrianah. It is one hundred and twenty coſs from north to ſouth, and from fifty to eighty from eaſt to weſt; but is broadeſt in the centre. The country is elevated; the ſoil a light brown ſand, from the nature of which rain is ſwallowed up as ſoon as fallen. This circumſtance renders neceſſary a recourſe to the conſtruction of wells in all parts of the country. Theſe, which are made of brick, are in general from one to two hundred feet in depth, though towards the Jeſſelmere frontier they extend to no leſs than three hundred feet. For the ordinary purpoſes of life, and domeſtic conſumption, each family is careful to provide a ciſtern for the reception of rain water; as a dearth of this precious article frequently compels the inhabitants, by whole families, to migrate to a more favourable ſoil.

With the exception of a few villages towards the eaſtern boundary, the cultivation of Beykaneer is precarious; bajerah, and other ſorts of Indian pulſe, being all that are produced. But horſes and bullocks are numerous. From the cauſes above ſtated, the inhabitants of Beykaneer are obliged in a great meaſure to depend upon their neighbours for the neceſſary ſupplies of proviſions; as even in the few places moſt favourable for cultivation the produce of the fields ſcarcely recompenſes the labour of the peaſant.

The city of Beykaneer is ſpacious, well-built, and ſurrounded by a wall of conker.

One mile ſouth-weſt of the city is the fort where the rajah reſides. It is a place of conſiderable ſtrength, built in the Indian ſtyle, and encompaſſed by a broad and deep ditch; but the chief ſecurity of both the city and fort is owing to the ſcarcity of water in the ſurrounding country.

The form of government in Beykaneer reſembles that of Joudpoor, for here alſo both

the property and lives of the ſubject are entirely at the diſpoſal of the prince.

Soorut Sing, the preſent ruler of Beykaneer, has been of late years compelled to maintain an army of mercenaries for the ſecurity of his authority. For though at his acceſſion to the government he found himſelf poſſeſſed of a full treaſury, which the wiſdom and foreſight of his anceſtors had hoarded up with frugality and care; yet from boundleſs profuſion and thoughtleſs extravagance this was quickly diſſipated; and his neceſſities compelling him to have recourſe to extortions to ſupply his extravagance, he has, by becoming cruel, tyrannical, and oppreſſive, thereby alienated the love of his ſubjects.*

* In the year 1799, the rajah of Beykaneer committed an act deserving of the highest reprobation, and which stands confirmed on the authority of Mr. Thomas.

A party who were sent by Vizier Ali, the spurious nawaub of Oude, to the country of Zemaun Shah, were, by order of Soorut Sing, the present sovereign, not only detained prisoners in their passage through his territories, but plundered of their property and treasure to the amount of twenty-seven lacks of rupees, and finally put to death.

The inhabitants of Beykaneer are in general Rajpoots, and ſpring from the parent ſtock of Oudipore, as will be hereafter noticed in the hiſtorical ſketch of that remarkable country. This of courſe attaches to them a ſimilarity of habits and manners. It has however been remarked that although Rajpoots, and of the Rhatore tribe, the Beykaneerians are cruel in diſpoſition, cowardly, and treacherous. Theſe degenerate ſymptoms may be attributed partly to their indolent and inactive ſtate for a long period of years; and partly to a relaxation in their ancient ſimplicity of manners, occaſioned by the bad example ſet them by their own princes.

The revenues of Beykaneer amount to about three lacks of rupees; though the rajah has occaſionally found means, by laying duties and vexatious impoſts on the merchants paſſing through his country, to realize nearly double that ſum.

The trade formerly paſſing from the port of Soorat to Tatta on the Indus, entered from

thence the Beykaneer province. The uſual route of the caravans was through Joudpore and the province of Jeſſelmere; but the rapacity and injuſtice of the reigning prince, as above related, have, of late years, if not utterly annihilated commerce, at leaſt directed its courſe into other channels: of this neglect the rajah of Jypore has reaped the principal benefit, by turning the moſt lucrative branches of commerce into his own territories.

The force of Beykaneer may amount on the whole to eight thouſand men; two-fifths of which are cavalry, and the remainder infantry and artillery. In the ſervice of this prince are ſeveral Europeans of different nations, who reſide within the fort of Beykaneer.

The rajah of Beykaneer has many enemies, the principal of which are his neighbours the Batties, whoſe country he invaded about nine years ſince, but without ſucceſs. He has, in like manner, been unſucceſsful in ſeveral attempts lately made in the diſtrict of Churoo.

Conſidering the nature of the ſoil and climate

of this country, it muſt appear matter of no ſmall ſurprize, that any people ſhould voluntarily have ſelected ſo barren and unprofitable a ſpot for a permanent reſidence. In Mr. Thomas's opinion, this determination muſt have originated in the predilection manifeſted by the firſt ſettlers for this dreary ſolitude; either from a romantic wiſh for retirement among themſelves, or occaſioned by the hatred which they entertained againſt the oppreſſion and injuſtice of their former rulers. The natives of this diſtrict are robuſt, hardy, and excellent farmers.

Adjoining the province of Beykaneer is the diſtrict called the Lacky Jungle, ſo much and ſo deſervedly celebrated for the fertility of its paſture lands, and for a breed of excellent horſes of the higheſt eſtimation in India. The Lacky Jungle is compriſed within the diſtrict of Batinda, forming a circle of about twenty-four coſſes of the country each way. On the north it is bounded by the country of Roy Kelaun, eaſt by the province of Hurrianah, ſouth by Batnier, and weſt by the great deſert.

It is ſituated twenty-two coſs north of Batnier, and fifty weſt of Pattialah, to whoſe chief the rajah is tributary.* The ſoil being ſandy, the wells are of conſiderable depth. The country yields rice and bajerah, and other ſorts of grain, but not in abundance. The chief excellency of the diſtrict conſiſts in its paſture lands, which for a ſucceſſion of ages have been celebrated as a nurſery for cattle. The original breed in this country has been much improved by Perſian horſes, which were introduced during the ſucceſſive invaſions of Nadir Shah and the Abdallis into Hindooſtan. This breed however has of late years been much neglected. This Mr. Thomas attributes to the exactions of the government, or rather to the rapacity of the miniſters of the rajah, who frequently compel the proprietors of the horſes to ſell them at their own price, much under the real value; and when purchaſed they are by theſe rapacious men ſent, on their own accounts, to different parts of the peninſula, and ſold at a conſiderable profit.

* Conſult the map.—This part of the country however ſtands in need of an actual ſurvey, which would be both curious and intereſting.

This impolitic meaſure has not only cauſed a decreaſe in the preſent breed, but has alſo deterred the inhabitants from extending the traffic; though, on the contrary, if the breeders of the horſes were allowed a fair and equitable market, and they were to be exempted from thoſe vexatious drawbacks, the commerce might again flouriſh, and the proprietors of land in the Lacky Jungle and its vicinity would have a certain preference in ſupplying the neighbouring ſtates with plenty of the fineſt horſes in India.

The prices of the horſes are variable, and obtain according to the quality of the animal; they are in general from two hundred to one thouſand rupees in value, which latter ſum is ſeldom exceeded.

It is remarked that the breeders are averſe to diſpoſe of their brood mares; and if prevailed upon to do ſo, will exact double price: though in general with regard to foreigners, they cannot be perſuaded to part with a brood mare for any price.

While breeding, the mares and foals are kept apart from the horſes. The women and children look after them during the day-time. At the ſeaſon of the periodical rains they are allowed to graze, and are brought home at night; but in the cold and dry ſeaſons they are fed upon hay, which is dried in the ſame manner as in Europe; a cuſtom common throughout the weſt of India.

One thing only diminiſhes the excellence of this breed, which is a diſeaſe of the moſt diſtreſſing nature. A ſpecies of muſquitoes, called by the natives Dunkh*, and ſometimes Fetha, are not only very troubleſome to the animals, by annoying them with their ſtings, but in a ſhort time degenerating into an incurable cancer, the horſes die.

This diſorder prevails chiefly in the neigh-

* This is remarkable, and it would no doubt amply recompense the labour any gentleman of science might bestow in investigating the causes of this extraordinary distemper, and pointing out a remedy; more especially, as it seems peculiar to the district called the Lacky Jungle.

bourhood of the Cuggur river, more particularly about the towns of Futtiahbad, Seerſah, and Runyah; and it is computed that in theſe places, and the interior parts of the Lacky Jungle, the yearly loſs ſuſtained by the ravages of this pernicious inſect is eſtimated at one-fourth of the horſes* that are produced.

Returning from our geographical excurſion, we now reſume the thread of our narrative. When reſolved on the invaſion of Beykaneer, Mr. Thomas, with great precaution and foreſight, had prepared a number of water-bags for the uſe of his army; a meaſure which the ſcarcity of water in that country rendered indiſpenſably neceſſary.

With this aid, and a reinforcement of troops, he on the commencement of the rainy ſeaſon began his march. The rajah, who had received,

* In addition to the foregoing it may be observed, that though the best horses are said to be produced within the boundaries of the Lacky Jungle, Mr. Thomas affirms that equally good horses may be procured many coss distant from thence; a circumstance which may possibly have confounded the real Jungle with some other place.

intimation of the intended attack, was prepared to repel it. Being in want of artillery, and knowing he could not ſtand againſt Mr. Thomas on the plain, he ſtationed large bodies of infantry in each of the frontier towns.

The firſt attack was made on the village of Jeitpore, in which were three thouſand men. Mr. Thomas reſolved on an immediate aſſault; and carried the place, though with the loſs of two hundred of his troops. The lives and property of the ſurvivors were then ranſomed for a ſum of money; and ſucceſsful in this firſt onſet, Mr. Thomas met with but little reſiſtance during the remainder of the campaign. Intimidated by theſe repeated defeats, the rajah's followers deſerted in crowds; a few Rajpoots alone remained faithful to his cauſe.

Under circumſtances ſo unfavorable, the rajah diſpatched a vakeel to Mr. Thomas, to requeſt a ceſſation from hoſtilities, and conſent to an adjuſtment of former differences. The rajah agreed to pay the ſum of two lacks of rupees, part of which was delivered on the ſpot; and for the remainder bills were given upon mer-

chants in Jypore, the amount of which Mr. Thomas never received.

It has before been remarked that Luckwah and his colleague had been ſuperſeded in their command, and made priſoners. This circumſtance afforded Mr. Thomas an opportunity of regaining poſſeſſion of the diſtricts belonging to the deceaſed Appakandarow, and which, as above related, had been made over in form to Furnaveeſe. Mr. Thomas now poſſeſſed himſelf of the diſtricts in queſtion, with an intent to preſent them to Appa's heir; but Ambajee and Mr. Perron, who had been lately nominated to the chief command in Hindooſtan, hearing of his intentions, united in requeſting Mr. Thomas to abſtain from interfering in the affair. Conſulting with Vavon Row on the ſubject, he was adviſed by that chief to comply, and at length aſſented. In recompence for this conceſſion, the Marhattas gave him the pergunnah of Badhli, which he added to his other acquiſitions.

Mr. Thomas next marched to Jeind, a town on the frontiers of Hurrianah and Punjab, be-

longing to Baug Sing. This chief had, from Mr. Thomas's firſt entering the province, behaved towards him in a hoſtile manner, for which Mr. Thomas now determined to retaliate. On his arrival at Jeind, the capital of Baug Sing, he attempted to ſtorm the place, but was driven back with the loſs of four hundred men. Undiſmayed even at a check ſo unexpected, Mr. Thomas, having fortified his camp agreeably to his uſual cuſtom, formed the blockade of the place; by which means, there being three thouſand perſons within the town, he expected to compel them to a ſurrender. In this hope he was for the preſent diſappointed. The ſiſter of Sahib Sing, of Puttialah, a woman of a maſculine and intrepid ſpirit, attended by a large force, arrived to ſuccour the place: with her alſo came Bugheel Sing, and other chiefs of the Seiks. Mr. Thomas, without heſitation, attacked the laſt-mentioned party with ſo much ſpirit that he compelled them to retire: and following up his victory, drove them through their own camp; which, conſiſting of ſtraw huts, he quickly deſtroyed by fire. They returned however to the attack, and their numbers increaſing, they were

permitted, by the ſhameful ſupineneſs of his own officers, to take poſſeſſion of two redoubts, by which many of his beſt men were cut to pieces. Supplies of proviſion coming in ſlowly, and the country people perceiving the untoward ſituation of affairs, now declared againſt him, and joined the enemy. This compelled Mr. Thomas, after a blockade of three months, to raiſe the ſiege, and return to Hanſi. The enemy, by this time increaſed to ten thouſand men, followed in his rear; and to add to his diſtreſs, the chief of Puttialah appeared at the ſame time with ſeveral pieces of heavy artillery. A retreat in theſe countries being always deemed equivalent to a defeat, the peaſantry who roſe on all ſides increaſed the difficulty in his progreſs. In hope of diverting the enemy's attention, Mr. Thomas gave out that he was going to Jypore; which lying far diſtant from their own country, he expected would induce them to relinquiſh their purſuit. In this he was unſucceſsful; but the enemy having repeatedly attacked him, and as often been repulſed, now of their own accord drew off, and directed their march towards Hanſi. Hoping to intercept him before he could reach that place, in their

route they encamped at Narnound, a town twenty coſs to the northward of Hanſi. Here Mr. Thomas reſolved to attack them. For this purpoſe he marched all night, and arriving by daybreak in their camp, gave them a complete defeat. Their tents, baggage, the howdahs of their elephants, the bazar, with one thouſand ſaddles, and about two hundred horſes, fell into his hands; but his troops diſperſing on all ſides in ſearch of plunder, prevented his becoming maſter of their artillery and elephants.

From the inclemency of the ſeaſon, Mr. Thomas was now neceſſitated to return to the place where he had depoſited his heavy baggage; and the Seiks, in their late defeat, repaired to Jeind. On their arrival they were refuſed admittance into the place, by the ſiſter of Sahib Sing. This lady, who, as we have before ſeen, had on ſeveral occaſions exhibited a ſpirit ſuperior to what could have been expected from her ſex, and far more decided than her brother, now offered to take the field in perſon. But the Seik chieftains, aſhamed in being exceeded in ſpirit by a woman, returned to encounter

Mr. Thomas, whom they found encamped near a large town. They now came to a reſolution to conquer, or periſh in the attempt: but whilſt deliberating on the mode of attack, their own camp was ſuddenly aſſaulted during the night by a numerous and daring banditti, who ſounded their trumpets with ſuch loud alarms that the Seiks, thinking the whole force of Mr. Thomas was at hand, abandoned their camp with precipitation. This circumſtance, though it occaſioned no real loſs to the Seiks, had great effect on the minds of the country people, and leſſened their ideas of Seik proweſs. The Seiks were now as deſirous of peace as they had before been determined on the continuance of hoſtilities; and it was at length agreed between the contending parties that each ſhould remain in poſſeſſion of their ſeveral diſtricts, as they ſtood before the ſiege of Jeind. Excepting the Rajah of Pattialah, all the reſt were well ſatisfied with the termination of hoſtilities. He alone refuſed to ſign the treaty, although, in ſpite of his remonſtrances, it was done by his more ſpirited ſiſter. For this conduct the Seik chief ungenerouſly evinced his reſentment, by detaining her a priſoner; but Mr. Thomas,

deeming it his duty to interfere on this occaſion, by threats compelled him to releaſe her.

About this time Mr. Thomas was invited by Ambajee to unite their forces: for his aſſiſtance Mr. Thomas was to receive the monthly ſum of fifty thouſand rupees. Having at preſent no particular deſtination, he cloſed with the terms: and agreeably to the inſtructions of Ambajee, prepared to lead his army to Oudipoor to encounter Luckwa; who by this time, having regained his liberty, was aſſembled in great force. As the country of Oudipoor conſtitutes one of the principal ſtates of Rajepootana, and is on ſeveral accounts extremely intereſting, we ſhall hope for pardon in digreſſing a little from the thread of our narrative, and proceed to take a retroſpective ſketch of its geographical poſition, and internal reſources.

CHAPTER X.

Geographical deſcription of the country of Oudipoor or Mewar—its conſtitution—manners and cuſtoms of the inhabitants—military operations in the Oudipoor country—termination of the campaign.

THE dominions of Oudipoor are ſeventy coſs from north to ſouth, and fifty from eaſt to weſt.

They are bounded on the north by Ajmere and the principality of Kiſhenghur, on the north and weſt by Joudepoor, on the ſouth and eaſt by the province of Malwa, and the north-eaſt by Kotah and Boondy.

The lands throughout Oudipoor are poſſeſſed by the princes, and chief nobility, and are held as Jaeedâd. Theſe lands at preſent can yield an annual revenue of a crore of rupees:

it formerly produced a larger ſum, but the depredations committed by the Mahrattas ſince taking poſſeſſion of a great part of this country, have cauſed its reduction to the preſent ſtandard; and though the Mahrattas ſince their conqueſt have permitted the landholders above-mentioned to retain their lands, yet by frequent exactions and vexatious mulcts, their value to the proprietors is conſiderably leſſened.

Moſt of the opulent towns in Mewar, which formerly acknowledged the authority of the Oudipoor family, are now in the hands of the Mahrattas.

The rajah is in a ſtate ſimilar to that of the emperor at Delhi; he is entirely guided by Mahratta councils, and dependant on them in a great meaſure for his ſubſiſtence: but in Mr. Thomas's opinion, they have not yet obtained the ſtrong holds in his country, and this prince, at preſent ſo inſignificant, may poſſibly at no diſtant period free himſelf from their uſurpations.

The country of Oudipoor is very productive; it yields ſugar-cane, indigo, tobacco, wheat, rice, barley, and in ſhort every thing to be found in other parts of India in the greateſt abundance.

In Oudipoor are found iron-mines, excellent timber, and in one part of the country is produced ſulphur.

The generality of cattle, however, are inferior in quality to thoſe of the more weſtern countries: horſes only are numerous, and may be procured at a moderate price.

The produce of the neighbouring ſtates being nearly the ſame as that of Oudipoor, the trade with them is not conſiderable, but a very extenſive commerce from all parts of India was formerly carried on through the agency of the Ghoſſeins of Nathdora; this of late years, through the oppreſſive government of the Mahrattas, has been obſtructed in its progreſs, almoſt to annihilation.

This country is uncommonly ſtrong by nature. The city of Oudipoor, which is ſituated

in an amphitheatre of hills, is guarded in the approach by a deep and dangerous defile, which admits of only a ſingle carriage paſſing at a time. So extenſive is the circuit protected by this paſs, that between four and five hundred villages are contained within its range; but Oudipoor, thus ſurrounded by hills, is very unhealthy, and peculiarly ſo during the ſeaſon of the periodical rains.

The wells in the neighbourhood of the city, though but a ſmall diſtance from the ſurface of the earth, are ſtrongly impregnated with the mineral qualities of the water that flows from the neighbouring hills, a principal cauſe of the inſalubrity of this climate.

The internal adminiſtration of Oudipoor is extremely ſingular, and therefore merits attention.

The whole power of the ſtate was formerly veſted in ſixteen principal chieftains, who were accuſtomed to reſide at court, with a ſtipulated number of followers. Theſe chiefs diſtinguiſhed by the name of the ſixteen omrahs,

and conſtantly reſiding at the capital, under the immediate eye of the ſovereign, this circumſtance rendered it impoſſible for them to tranſact the buſineſs of their reſpective domains in perſon. To remedy this inconvenience, thirty-two inferior chiefs were nominated to aſſiſt them with their counſels: theſe were deſignated the thirty-two omrahs; and in order to aſſiſt the latter, in the ordinary detail of buſineſs in the interior diſtricts, ſixty-four inferior officers were appointed, who from their number are alſo called, the ſixty-four omrahs. Theſe combined, preſent a ſyſtem not very diſſimilar to that of the feudal tenures of Europe, prior to the conſolidation of the French monarchy, under the emperor Charlemagne,* though that prince has been blamed by hiſtorians for dividing his kingdom among his children.

In the original deſign of this extraordinary conſtitution, it was intended that a gradation of authority ſhould be eſtabliſhed by the

* Conſult the History of France, vol. I. p. 59, et seq. Author anonymous.

ſmaller number controlling the greater; ſo that the thirty-two chiefs were to be ſubſervient to the decrees of the council of ſixteen, and by a ſimilar and progreſſive ratio the reſolutions of the ſixty-four were to be controlled by thoſe of the thirty-two.

But, as might reaſonably have been expected, the chiefs, by a frequent abuſe of power, at length ſanctioned the interference of the prince; who by intrigues and ſowing diſſenſions among them, gradually recovered the exerciſe of his own authority.

He therefore forbade theſe high-ſpirited nobles to interfere with each others' concerns: and to remedy the inconveniences that government might ſuſtain from their private feuds, the rajah appointed of his own accord a dewaun, or controller-general; to whom all complaints from the omrahs or the ſubjects within their reſpective diſtricts were to be made, and whoſe adjudication was to be conſidered as final. As the lands throughout Oudipoor had formerly been divided among the omrahs, with a ſlight variation they have ſo

continued to the preſent day; but the former authority and political conſequence enjoyed by theſe omrahs in the adminiſtration of the government, have long ceaſed, and at preſent Mahratta influence alone prevails in the dominions of Oudipoor.

The policy of the Mahrattas has of late been directed to diſtreſs the people of Oudipoor with vexatious fines, rather than to diſpoſſeſs them altogether, as they apprehend, if driven to deſperation, the Rajepoots might not only unite in a common cauſe, but by deſerting the level country and taking refuge in the mountains, render their complete ſubjection extremely difficult.

The nobility of Oudipoor are rajepoots of the tribe called Seſodia. This tribe among them is eſteemed the pureſt and moſt noble; a few are Rahtours. In their perſons the Oudipoor Rajepoots are not ſo comely as the neighbouring rahtours, nor are they ſo courageous, although they frequently intermarry with that tribe. This diſtinction in the raje-

poot blood, in Mr. Thomas's opinion, may be traced to the unhealthineſs of the climate. Though affable in their manners and civil to ſtrangers, the rajepoots of Oudipoor do not poſſeſs an equal ſhare of ſincerity with their brethren in other parts of Rajepootana.

The military force of Oudipoor may be eſtimated at twelve thouſand cavalry; the infantry, which is retained by the different omrahs in their reſpective forts to guard againſt Mahratta invaſion, is very inconſiderable. The arms of the Oudipoor rajepoots conſiſt of a matchlock, a lance, and a ſabre, though the former are not ſo much uſed as the two latter.

They are fond of glittering armour; and clothe their horſes with a thick quilting, which it is ſaid will reſiſt the ſtroke of a ſabre.

Mr. Thomas moreover conſiders the inhabitants of Oudipoor as more inclined to pomp and luxury than the other tribes.

It is however to be remarked, that when the honour of their women is concerned, or they are afraid of their being inſulted, the Rajepoots of Oudipoor, in common with their brethren in the other ſtates, not only make a deſperate reſiſtance, but if unſucceſsful ſeldom ſurvive their diſgrace.

If the natural ſtrength of this country, its internal reſources, and, above all, the ſpirited and warlike character of its inhabitants, be conſidered with attention, it can ſurely, concludes Mr. Thomas, be no matter of wonder, that the ſubjugation of a country ſo difficult of acceſs ſhould be attended with innumerable obſtacles; or that the hardy and independant chiefs, immured within their native faſtneſſes, ſhould not only ſtill be enabled to preſerve themſelves from the Mahratta yoke, but continue even to the preſent hour to enjoy their patrimonial eſtates in an undiſturbed tranquillity.

We muſt now carry back our narrative to the commencement of Mr. Thomas's expedition againſt Luckwa; who, as before ſtated, had

taken a ſtrong poſition on the frontiers of Oudipoor.

While on the march towards that country, Mr. Thomas was alarmed by a mutiny which broke out among his troops, occaſioned by delay in the payment of their arrears. As an apology for a conduct ſo unmilitary, they urged, that as they were now marching towards the Deccan*, their families who were left behind would ſuſtain much inconvenience. Although there appeared ſome reaſon for the demand, Mr. Thomas deeming it a dangerous precedent to yield compliance, therefore gave them a denial. The mutineers, growing outrageous, wiſhed to ſurround and take him priſoner: this he evaded by encamping apart from them with the ſoldiers who were ſtill faithful. He then called in a body of cavalry to his aſſiſtance, when the mutineers advanced with their guns to attack him. Reſolved to repreſs their inſolence or periſh in the attempt, Mr. Thomas now mounted his horſe, and went to meet them. Several ſhot were fired

* This word implies the south, in opposition to *cotur* or the north: *poorub* is the east, and *puchum* the west.

at him: but having reſolutely ſeized on the ringleaders, he expelled them from the camp; and the remainder, perceiving the fate of their comrades, returned to their duty.

He then proceeded againſt Luckwa. On the road he was joined by vakeels from the rajahs of Joudpoor, Jypoor, and Kiſhen Ghur, each of whom brought preſents from their reſpective maſters. It was now repreſented to Mr. Thomas, that Scindiah having pardoned Luckwa, it was therefore improper to proceed to hoſtilities with that chief; but Mr. Thomas, who only conſulted the intereſts of Ambajee in whoſe ſervice he was now engaged, and from whom he had received poſitive orders to fight Luckwa wherever he came up with him, did not, from theſe conſiderations, think himſelf at liberty to deſiſt. But the former mutiny among his troops, not having been properly quelled, from a miſtaken lenity in Mr. Thomas, and unwillingneſs on his part to puſh matters to extremities, now broke out again with redoubled violence. With his uſual prompitude, he ſeized on the ringleaders, and inſtantly cauſed one of them to be blown from the

mouth of a cannon; the others were ſecured by putting them in irons: this prompt ſeverity was attended with the happieſt effect, the mutiny was entirely ſubdued, and was the laſt he ever experienced.

He was now joined by a brigade of troops under Mr. Sutherland, who came for the avowed purpoſe of oppoſing Luckwa. On uniting their force, they advanced towards Luckwa. That chief, as yet unable to make an effectual reſiſtance, encamped near the paſs leading to Oudipore, the nature of which has been before deſcribed. Into this paſs he threw his heavy baggage and ſtores, a meaſure which on any other occaſion would have proved his ruin; but Luckwa had previouſly received information that the rana of Oudipore, being favourably inclined towards him, was ready to afford protection to himſelf and followers.

A plan of attack was now concerted by Mr. Thomas and Mr. Sutherland, and the enſuing morning named for carrying it into execution. That very night, however, Mr. Sutherland, without aſſigning any cauſe, to Mr. Tho-

mas's utter aſtoniſhment, thought proper to decamp, and leave him to conduct the operations againſt Luckwa with his own troops.

This circumſtance inſpired Luckwa with confidence; and he, who from the untoward ſituation of his affairs, had before been humble, now became haughty in proportion to their alteration. He ſent letters to the different chiefs in the neighbourhood, commanding them to join his ſtandard. Three days after Mr. Sutherland's retreat, Mr. Thomas, leaving Ambajee with his troops to protect the baggage, advanced againſt Luckwa in order of battle; but the action was at that time prevented by the coming on of a moſt tremendous ſtorm of rain, thunder, and lightning, which induced Luckwa to halt. Mr. Thomas's poſition being favourable for cavalry to act, of which the enemy's force chiefly conſiſted, and far ſuperior in number, he was deſirous of changing it; and accordingly, moving more to the left, he took poſt on a riſing ground from whence he could have nothing to apprehend from an attack of horſe. When the ſtorm was over, Luckwa again advanced towards Mr.

Thomas; but ſeeing his advantageous poſition, and having loſt a number of men in his approach from the fire of Mr. Thomas's artillery, he thought proper to draw off the field. Mr. Thomas, after a ſevere and fatiguing ſervice during the day-time, returned in the evening to his own camp.

At midnight, vakeels from Luckwa arriving in the camp, produced letters from Scindiah, in which that chief repeated his commands for hoſtilities to ceaſe on both ſides, he having nominated Luckwa to the government of all his poſſeſſions north of the Nerbuddah. In the morning a council of war being held, the different ſirdars each delivered his own opinion. Mr. Thomas, on his part, obſerved, that being employed by Ambajee for the expreſs purpoſe of reducing the province of Mewar to his authority, he could conſent to no terms in which the evacuation of that country by Luckwa was not a leading article.

After much negotiation, a propoſal was made for both armies to march to the northern frontier, and there wait for freſh inſtructions from

Scindiah on the ſubject. Mr. Thomas, well appriſed of the inſincerity of Luckwa, knew that he only wiſhed to gain time, in order to form a junction with a body of troops now on their march to join him from Ajemere, and to get that country in his rear, which, as the fort and city of Ajemere belonged to him, would enable him to receive a conſtant ſupply of proviſions; for theſe reaſons, therefore, he was averſe to the propoſal. He knew alſo, that their preſent ſituation near Oudipore would be much benefited when the periodical rains, which were now daily expected, ſhould ſet in, as he would then be able to procure a ſupply of forage, of which they were in great want.

Theſe points he ſubmitted to Ambajee's conſideration, but in vain, for that chief's principal officers having been gained over by bribes, declined acting againſt Luckwa, until anſwers to the propoſitions referred to Scindia ſhould be received.

In thoſe reſolutions Mr. Thomas unwillingly acquieſced. The armies commenced their march, and although only at a diſtance of fifty

coſs (the rains having overtaken them in their route) fifteen days had elapſed before they reached the northern frontier. Luckwa having by this time been reinforced by the troops which he expected, as alſo by ſome from Oudipoor, peremptorily refuſed to evacuate the country. He accordingly recommenced hoſtilities, and marched againſt Mr. Thomas. Ambajees's troops, who were encamped on an extenſive plain, were in conſequence open to attacks of cavalry; Mr. Thomas with his uſual prudence had taken poſt on the ſpot of ground ſurrounded on all ſides by nullahs and ravines. In a council of war held on the occaſion, it was determined that Ambajee's force ſhould encamp in Mr. Thomas's rear, by which means they would be ſecure from any attempt of the enemy's horſe. Prior to this determination of the council being known, a battalion who had began to dreſs their victuals, could not be perſuaded to move off until they had finiſhed their meal; the conſequence of this delay proved fatal; Luckwa, too late ſenſible of his error in not poſſeſſing himſelf of the ground occupied by Mr. Thomas, nevertheleſs attempted to take a redoubt that lay in his front; for

this purpoſe he advanced with reſolution, but being ſoon compelled to retreat, he directed his infantry to remain on the defenſive; and eager to revenge his ill ſucceſs, at the head of a ſtrong detachment of cavalry, he fell ſuddenly upon the battalion before mentioned, who in their defenceleſs ſtate were almoſt cut to pieces. Mr. Thomas, leaving two battalions to cover Ambajee, now proceeded with the remainder to the attack of Luckwa's main body, but a heavy ſhower of rain falling, and the ſudden ſwelling of the nullahs, prevented further hoſtilities on that day. The rain continued without intermiſſion for eight days, during which time no opportunity occurred of renewing the conteſt; frequent ſkirmiſhes however took place. It was cuſtomary for Luckwa and ſome of his principal Sirdars, attended by a ſelect body of horſe, to pay daily viſits to Mr. Thomas: they uſually poſted themſelves between the camp and the town of Shahpoora, from whence he received ſupplies of grain.

To deceive the enemy on this occaſion, Mr. Thomas was accuſtomed to change the

uniforms and colours of his own people; and having by feints got within ſhot of the enemy, he frequently opened a ſmart cannonade; one in particular, the enemy approaching ſo near, that Luckwa himſelf could be eaſily diſtinguiſhed. Mr. Thomas, by a briſk and well-directed fire, compelled them to a ſpeedy retreat, after a conſiderable loſs in men and horſes. Theſe ſkirmiſhes, though haraſſing to the troops, did not occaſion much loſs to either party, who were now in daily expectation of receiving orders from Scindiah to deſiſt from hoſtilities. Intelligence now arrived that Perron, taking advantage of Mr. Thomas's abſence, had invaded the purgunnah of Jyjur, and was moreover committing depredations on other parts of his poſſeſſions. This intelligence he wiſhed to keep ſecret, but Luckwa, who had previouſly received ſimilar intimation, now made Mr. Thomas very handſome offers to induce him to join his ſtandard, but theſe were reſolutely rejected. Mr. Thomas moreover acquainted Luckwa, that though he might poſſibly leave the ſervice of Ambajee at the termination of the preſent campaign, he could never become his enemy, nor connect himſelf

with thoſe who were. This anſwer diſpleaſed Luckwa; he complained much in his durbar of Mr. Thomas, who he ſaid was a man of a moſt unaccountable character; that although repeated orders had been received from Scindiah to ceaſe hoſtilities, he could not be prevailed on to obey them; and finally charged him with nothing leſs than aiming at the expiration of Scindiah's authority, and the eſtabliſhment of his own.

Not content with the falſeneſs of theſe accuſations, Luckwa privately ſent emiſſaries into Mr. Thomas's camp to ſow diſſenſions among his troops, but they being diſcovered by his hircarrahs,* were ſeized, put into confinement, and there detained during the remainder of the campaign.

The arts uſed by Luckwa on this occaſion having failed, Mr. Thomas conciliated the good opinion of his ſoldiers, by an aſſurance of ſpeedily reconducting them to their own country. The force of Luckwa at this period

* Meſſengers.

amounted to nine thouſand cavalry, ſix thouſand regular infantry, two thouſand Rohillas, and about five or ſix thouſand mercenaries, together with ninety pieces of artillery.

Mr. Thomas had only ſix battalions, by deſertion much reduced, one hundred and fifty cavalry, three hundred Rohillas and twenty-two pieces of artillery.

With this force comparatively ſo ſmall, he was compelled not only to provide for the ſafety of Ambajee, but the ſecurity of the camp, to eſcort proviſions, and procure ſupplies of forage for the whole.

Several actions took place, in which Mr. Thomas was uſually ſucceſsful, having frequently driven his antagoniſt back to his camp. On one occaſion Luckwa narrowly eſcaped a total defeat: he drew out his whole army, and advanced upon Mr. Thomas, who, at the time having only two battalions, was compelled to retire; Luckwa followed in his rear to the ſkirts of his encampment, when, being ſuddenly joined by three additional battalions and a ſup-

ply of ammunition, unexpectedly turning on his purſuers, gave them a moſt ſevere check.

Luckwa returned in confuſion with the loſs of a great many men; and ſo great was the conſternation, that the darkneſs of the night alone ſaved him from a total defeat. Between the camps there ran a nullah, the north ſide of which was occupied by the army of Luckwa; and the troops of Ambajee and Mr. Thomas were ſtationed on the ſouth. Ambajee, in order to prevent the advance of Luckwa's artillery, who endeavoured to open upon him, fortified an advanced redoubt on the north ſide of the nullah, but too far detached from his main body to receive ſuccour in caſe of an attack. For its defence, were ſtationed three battalions of ſepoys, ſix pieces of cannon, and one thouſand Ghoſſeins. To ſupport theſe, three battalions were poſted at a ſhort diſtance in the rear. A heavy rain had fell for twenty four hours, which cauſed two large reſervoirs to overflow their banks, by which means the nullah riſing to a great height, became impaſſable, and thereby intercepted the communication between the camps. Luckwa availed

himſelf of this opportunity, and attacked the poſt before-mentioned with great vigour and reſolution; his men in advancing to the aſſault were up to their necks in water, which reſolute conduct infuſed ſuch terror into the men in the redoubt, that being panick ſtruck, they ſurrendered without firing a ſhot. The Ghoſſeins alone refuſed to ſubmit; and, after a brave though fruitleſs reſiſtance, were cut to pieces. Ambajee's troops, who before this diſaſter refuſed to fight, now deſerted in great numbers. Luckwa alſo had by his intrigues induced the Shahpoora Rajah to join in hoſtilities againſt Mr. Thomas, whoſe ſupplies by this means were entirely cut off. Although he had proviſions ſufficient for the conſumption of twenty days for his own troops, thoſe of Ambajee had not more than three. Should they be compelled to retreat unſupported by him, they would moſt likely be cut off by their active and vigilant enemy. Mr. Thomas was diſtreſſed for ammunition; his ſuperfluous ſtores having been left at Singanah, a place twenty coſs diſtant from their preſent encampment: the diſtance did not permit his ſending a ſmall force to eſcort the ſtores, and from pre-

ſent circumſtances he was unable to detach a larger party. For theſe reaſons, he thought it more adviſable to march himſelf, and having procured the neceſſary ſupplies, to return to his former ground; but Ambajee's ſick and wounded men having been left on the ground, Mr. Thomas, with his accuſtomed humanity, generouſly advanced money to procure them carriage to the place. In his retreat he was purſued by a party from Luckwa's army; but after ſeveral ineffectual attempts the enemy deſiſted, and he completed the remainder of his march unmoleſted. We have before had occaſion to remark that Ambajee was ſenſible of his ill conduct in authoriſing an attack on Mr. Thomas's poſſeſſions, who had ever ſerved him with fidelity; that chief now wrote letters excuſing theſe attacks, and laying the blame on the enmity of Mr. Perron.

In fact, both Ambajee and Perron, ſuppoſing that Luckwa had been compelled to evacuate the Mewar, concluded there was no further occaſion for Mr. Thomas's ſervices; the preſent time, therefore, appeared to them moſt

favourable for ſeizing his country; but perceiving his reſolute conduct and ſteady adherence to their intereſts during the late conflict, they ultimately grew aſhamed of their proceedings, and deſiſted.

Mr. Thomas, though diſſatisfied at the treatment he had experienced, nevertheleſs reſolved, from prudential motives, to appear content; and the diſtricts which had been taken from him having been reſtored, the matter was finally dropped.

Arriving at Singana, he completed his ammunition and other requiſites, and immediately recommenced his march againſt Luckwa; that chief had inveſted a fort about thirty coſs to the north eaſt of Singanah. Advancing by ſlow and eaſy marches through the diſtricts occupied by Agagee Mirtha, Mr. Thomas thought proper to puniſh that chief for his conduct on a late occaſion, in having invited the country people to declare againſt him.

In a few days he arrived within twelve

miles of Luckwa's camp, which he intended to attack the next morning; but Luckwa, deeming himſelf unequal to the conteſt, ſuddenly decamped from the fort he was beſieging, and having quitted the boundary in diſpute, he in two marches reached his own diſtricts in the province of Ajemere.

Letters had lately been received from Dowlut Rao Scindiah, enjoining Mr. Thomas to obey Luckwa, and put an end to the conteſt. To theſe he had uniformly replied, that being in the ſervice of Ambajee, he could only pay obedience to the orders of that chief; and in this he was juſtified by expreſs and repeated commands not to ceaſe from hoſtilities until Luckwa had quitted the dominions of Oudipoore.

That object being now happily accompliſhed, Mr. Thomas employed himſelf in levying contributions to reimburſe Ambajee for the expences incurred during the campaign. He collected near four lacks of rupees, a ſum conſiderably beyond the actual expenditure, and

could have raiſed a great deal more, had not Mr. Perron about this time broke the treaty into which he had lately entered with Ambajee.

This treaty ſtipulated, that ſhould Scindiah hereafter think proper to reinſtate Luckwa in his authority, they were to act in concert, a meaſure by which ſecurity in their reſpective poſſeſſions would be eſtabliſhed.

In this agreement it was alſo ſtipulated that Mewar ſhould remain in Ambajee's poſſeſſion. Mr. Perron, who now began to entertain a jealouſy againſt Ambajee, entered into a private and ſeparate treaty with Luckwa, whom he had gained over to his intereſt. The letters from Scindiah were produced, requeſting Ambajee to withdraw his troops from the Mewar, and put Luckwa in poſſeſſion of his country. Perron adviſed compliance with the order, and in caſe of refuſal threatened to aſſiſt Luckwa in taking poſſeſſion by force. In this ſtate of the buſineſs, Ambajee wrote letters to his collectors and to Mr. Thomas, ordering them to

deliver over the country in diſpute, and withdraw the troops. Mr. Thomas, on receiving a cypher from Ambajee, complied.

Mr. Perron now marched to Jypore; Ambajee remained behind; and not long after the tranſaction above related, deſired Mr. Thomas to march to Duttiah. He was preparing to obey, when a contrary order arrived, deſiring him to join the united force of Ambajee and Luckwa. Mr. Thomas, from ſuch contradictory orders, ſuſpected treachery, and that Luckwa wiſhed only for this opportunity to effect his ruin.

Refuſing therefore compliance with the demand, he commenced his march northward.

Luckwa now throwing off the maſk, wiſhed to ſend a force after Mr. Thomas in order to puniſh him, but was not able to raiſe a ſupply of money ſufficient for the purpoſe. Mr. Thomas continued to levy contributions in the Ajemere province, through which he directed

his march, and now conſidered himſelf in a ſtate of actual hoſtility againſt Luckwa.

His ſituation had by this time become critical; the army of Luckwa was but twenty coſs to the eaſtward of him; that of Jypore lay in his front; and Perron himſelf was endeavouring to hurt him at the court of the Rajah. The bad water of the mountainous country of Mewar having affected his army, a third part of the troops were ſick, but Luckwa's troops were in a ſtate of inſubordination; and the Rajah of Jypore and Mr. Perron were at preſent overawed by the preſence of Colonel Collins, the Britiſh Ambaſſador at that court, who about the latter end of 1799 had arrived at Janaghur, to demand the delivery of the perſon of Vizier Alli, the ſpurious Nawaub of Oude.

In this ſtate of affairs, Mr. Thomas, after eluding every attempt to oppoſe his progreſs, and having raiſed contributions to the amount of two lacks of rupees, arrived in his own territory, deſirous of obtaining ſome repoſe from the fatigues of his late perilous campaign.

His repoſe however on this occaſion was not of long duration; the force which he had left behind to collect the revenues having accompliſhed their purpoſe, now joined him; and finding himſelf at eaſe with regard to the Mahrattas, he reſolved to make an incurſion into the Punjaub, in order to puniſh Sahib Sing of Puttialah, who had undeſervedly ill treated his ſiſter for entering into the negotiations with Mr. Thomas the preceding year. That chief had, moreover, during Mr. Thomas's abſence in the Mewar country, authoriſed depredations among his diſtricts; but hoſtilities were for the preſent prevented by the Seik chief agreeing to ſurrender certain villages, and paying a ſum of money as a compenſation for thoſe depredations.

Mr. Thomas next turned his arms againſt the Rajah of Beykaneer, who, as we have before had occaſion to remark, on the termination of his late diſpute, had given him falſe bills on the merchants of Jypore. That Prince had lately obtained ſome advantages over his neighbours the Battees, an extraordinary race with

whom he had long been at variance, and whoſe country, from its ſingularity of ſituation, as well geographical as ſtatiſtical, merits a digreſſion from the ordinary courſe of Mr. Thomas's narrative.

CHAPTER XI.

Deſcriptive account of the country of the Batties —ſingular manners and cuſtoms of the inhabitants—military operations againſt the Rājah of Beykaneer—Mr. Thomas returns to Jyjur.

THE country of the Batties is bounded on the north by the Punjab and the river Sutledge, eaſt by the diſtrict of Hurrianah, weſt by the deſert, and ſouth by Beykaneer.

It is fifty coſs from eaſt to weſt, and about one hundred from north to ſouth.

That part of the country beſt adapted for the purpoſes of cultivation is along the banks of the river Cuggur, extending from the town of Futtahbad to that of Batnier. The ſoil is uncommonly productive, which ariſes in a great meaſure from the immenſe body of water deſcending from the mountains during the rainy ſeaſon; this cauſing the banks of the

river to overflow to an extent of ſeveral miles, leaves on the retiring of the waters a loamy earth, which rewards the labours of the peaſant in the produce of an abundant harveſt.

Where the river overflows, wheat, rice, and barley are plentiful, and in the higher parts of the country are likewiſe to be found thoſe different ſpecies of grain which are common throughout India. The remainder of the Battie country, owing to a ſcarcity of water, is unproductive.

The courſe of the Cuggur river has already been laid down in our detail of the Punjab. It is here, therefore, ſufficient to remark that during Mr. Thomas's reſidence at Batnier, he could perceive little veſtige of what was called the ancient bed of this river; but from the ſcanty information he procured, it appeared to him that the river, though it formerly ran along the north ſide of the fort, its channel had been choked up by vaſt quantities of earth forced down from the mountains; and, according to the prevailing opinion of the natives, though now loſt in the ſands weſt of the city,

it formerly extended as far as the Sutledge, which it joined in the vicinity of Ferozepore.*

Batnier, the capital of the diſtrict, and reſidence of the Rajah, is two hundred miles weſt of Delhi, and about forty ſouth of Batinda. The towns of Arroah, Futtahbad, Sirſah, and Ranyah, conſtitute the other places of note in the Battie country; theſe towns, together with the numerous villages, afford a population ſufficient to bring into the field an army of twenty thouſand men, without detriment to the cultivation of the lands. Of late years, however, many of the Batties, migrating from their native country, have fixed their reſidence in the weſtern parts of the dominions of Oude, and at the preſent day ſeveral families of this ſingular tribe are to be met with in the vicinity of Chandowſy, in Rohilcund.

As peculiarity in manners more diſtinctly ſerves to diſcriminate the genius and character of a people, a few of the ſingularities obſerv-

* Conſult the map.

able among the Batties may perhaps not be deemed unworthy of our notice. A deſert ſeparates them from any communication with the countries to the weſtward; parties are often formed for croſſing this deſert, in order to invade the neareſt diſtrict. They ſet out numerous and well equipped; intelligent perſons amongſt them are ſelected by the reſt as guides to the party, to whoſe orders, during the journey, they pay the moſt implicit obedience, and on arrival at the frontier of the enemy's country their authority is at an end.

For the performance of theſe journeys, they have camels, which are loaded with bread, water, and other neceſſary articles of proviſions. This ſtock being previouſly ſent off, is depoſited at different parts of the deſert, which extends from ſixty to ſeventy coſs. Theſe places are conſidered as points of rendezvous to meet with their ſupplies; not a drop of water, or proviſions of any kind, being otherwiſe procurable; and ſhould theſe ſupplies fail by any accident, inevitable death awaits them all.

The guides, whom we have before men-

tioned, become ſkilful by long experience and conſtant practice. Without the aid of a tree, or land mark of any deſcription, to direct them in their march over this dreary deſert, they ſeldom fail not only to aſcertain the place where the proviſions are depoſited, but likewiſe to conduct the intrepid adventurers to the deſtined ſpot. It frequently happens, moreover, that individuals of the party, who, from heedleſsneſs and inattention, ſtray from the caravan, oppreſſed by the multiplied evils of thirſt, hunger, and fatigue, periſh miſerably in the deſert.

" So where our wide Numidian wastes extend,
" Sudden th' impetuous hurricanes descend,
" Wheel through the air, in circling eddies play,
" Tear up the sands, and sweep whole plains away.
" The helpless traveller with wild surprise,
" Sees the dry desert all around him rise,
" And, smother'd in the dusty whirlwind, dies !"*

In their progreſs during this ſingular march, the guides are directed by the Sun by day, and the North Star by night; and with theſe unerring marks they are enabled to perform journeys which appear almoſt incredible.

* See Addison's Cato.

Theſe journeys are moreover performed with accuracy and exactneſs. Departing at night from a fixed or given point, and often ſteering different courſes, by the aid of the ſigns above-mentioned, they will, after a march of thirty, forty, and even fifty coſs, return to the ſpot from whence they ſat out, and, with the exception of rain or cloudy weather, ſcarce ever deviate from their point of deſtination. Should they be preſſed for proviſions on their journey, or have conſumed their ordinary ſtock, a bullock or calf, belonging to the party, is killed, roaſted, divided, and eaten on the ſpot; and at the concluſion of this primitive meal, the company reſume the journey with their accuſtomed alacrity.*

We have hitherto ſeen the faireſt ſide of the character of this extraordinary people. Candour requires us to ſtate that they are cruel in their nature, ſavage and ferocious in the higheſt degree; that they have an utter abhorrence

* Are not these traits the Scythian characteristics? and do we not in the foregoing description recognise the paſtoral lives of the Nomades of antiquity?

of all the uſages of civilized life, are thieves from their birth, and ſcruple not, in their predatory incurſions into the neighbouring diſtricts, though unreſiſted, to add murder to robbery.

This thieviſh ſpirit may be ſaid to have reached even the throne itſelf, as the Rajah has not been aſhamed to declare, in Mr. Thomas's hearing, that he willingly participated in the ſpoils thus collected by his own ſubjects. This fact was aſcertained by Mr. Thomas from the Rajah himſelf, during a reſidence of two months in his camp: in other reſpects, a good and humane character. The Rajah ſpoke without the leaſt appearance of ſhame of the depredations committed by his ſubjects. When it was remarked that the ſoil and climate of his country were ſufficiently fertile to ſupply the wants of the inhabitants by the honeſt labours of the plough, he replied, that the ſmall number of Rajpoots in his ſervice, compared with the maſs of the country people, did not allow him to reſtrain the latter in thoſe unlawful acts, as any interference with ſo old and eſtabliſhed a

cuſtom would, in all probability, prove ſubverſive of his own authority.

A people ſo enterpriſing muſt, no doubt, appear formidable to their enemies; yet if their utter contempt of ſubordination, and the weakneſs of their means of defence be duly conſidered; that they are a tumultuous rabble, void of order and diſcipline, it is matter of wonder that ſome of the neighbouring nations have not taken advantage of their weakneſs, and prevented this neſt of banditti from interrupting their tranquillity. In their wars, or rather their depredations with the adjoining countries, they have been in general ſucceſsful, and the territories of Sahib Sing, Loll Sing, and Baug Sing, chiefs of eminence among the Seiks, have frequently ſuffered by the inroads of this daring people, and been moreover not unfrequently compelled to purchaſe peace.

To theſe may likewiſe be added the country of the Balooches, weſt of the Sutledge; the diſtrict of Hurrianah; and the province of Beykaneer; all which have in turn ſuſtained

their ravages, and by which means, more than two thouſand villages, which were once populous, highly cultivated, and produced a revenue of from twenty to thirty lacks of rupees, have now become a barren waſte.

Another trait in the character of the Batties is their permitting their women to appear in public unveiled, and without any ſpecies of concealment, though common in other parts of India. On the contrary, with the exception of the wives of their chiefs, who are in general Rajpoots, the females are univerſally admitted to move about in company with the men, tending their flocks and herds, and, like the Scythians of old, traverſing from place to place in ſearch of forage and water.

" At th' approach of night,
" On the first friendly bank he throws him down,
" Or rests his head upon a rock till morn,
" Then rises fresh, pursues his wonted game;
" And if the following day he chance to find
" A new repast, or an untasted spring,
" Blesses his stars, and thinks it luxury.*

* See Addison's Cato.

The Batties are of the Mahomedan religion. In common with other Muſſulmans, they are fond of tobacco to exceſs; and whether on horſeback in the field, at the plough, or in their domeſtic avocations, are never ſeen without the hookha.

It has been remarked that this people can bring into the field from twenty to thirty thouſand men, but they are ill-armed, and without diſcipline.

The revenues of the Battie Prince ariſe chiefly from the plunder acquired by the incurſions of his ſubjects into the neighbouring ſtates, though it is difficult to aſcertain the exact receipts, but they do not in general amount to more than ten lacks of rupees.

The trade of the Batties is very circumſcribed, with the exception of the ſale of their ſurplus grain, ghee, and cattle of different kinds: they have little interference with other ſtates, and that chiefly with the petty merchants of Nohur and Behadra already mentioned, and with whom alone they hold a correſpondence

from motives of religious veneration to the memory of Shaick Fereed, an eminent Mahomedan ſaint, who flouriſhed about the eighth century of the Hijerah.

This veneration is carried ſo far as to claim protection in his name. Though deaf to the voice of mercy in other reſpects, and cruel from their natural diſpoſition, yet in this inſtance the Batties reſtrain themſelves with a moderation truly ſingular.

Such is repreſented by Mr. Thomas to be a faithful portrait of the mixed character of this extraordinary people; and if the leading features of it be conſidered attentively by a reflecting obſerver, a compariſon with their barbariſm, and the happy reſult ariſing from the advantages of civiliſed life in other parts of the world, may be made to advantage, though it ſtill affords an impreſſive leſſon of the mutability of human nature, and the caprice and inſtability of all human inſtitutions.

The chiefs of the Batties were originally Rajpoots, but are now Mahomedans. About

ſix hundred years ago their anceſtors migrated from the province of Jeſſelmere; and after ſeveral viciſſitudes of fortune, at length ſettled as cultivators of the ſoil in the diſtrict at preſent called the Battie country.

The majority of the preſent inhabitants, who acknowledge the authority of the deſcendants of the chiefs aforementioned, were originally Jauts, inhabiting the weſtern banks of the Sutledge, in the 29th degree of north latitude. They embraced the Mahomedan religion, and about one hundred years ſince were invited by the anceſtors of the preſent rajah to croſs the Sutledge, and ſettle in the vicinity of Batnier, where their deſcendants ſtill continue to reſide.

Reſuming our narration, after this digreſſion, it muſt now be remarked, that the local advantages poſſeſſed by the rajah of Beykaneer had induced him to creſt a fort ſix coſs to the ſouth-weſt of Batinda, the capital of the Battee tribe, which ſerved in ſome meaſure to overawe thoſe deſperate marauders, or at leaſt to check their predatory incurſions into his own

country. In this fort, excluſive of the garriſon, he ſtationed a large body of cavalry, who ſo annoyed the Batties by frequent ſallies, in which they took ſuch numbers of cattle, that the inhabitants entertained thoughts of emigrating from their own country altogether.

When Mr. Thomas reached the frontiers of Beykaneer, the chiefs of the Batties, hearing of his arrival, were deſirous of entering into a treaty with him; and, in order to ſecure him in their intereſts, offered the ſum of 40,000 rupees, if he would reduce the fort abovementioned, and liberate them from their unpleaſant ſituation.

The offer being accepted, after a march of ten days, Mr. Thomas reached the city of Batnier, the moſt weſtern habitation in that part of India.*

This city, occupied by the troops of Bey-

* In this ſense at least it is underſtood at preſent, there being no habitation weſt of it until you paſs the Sutledge, from whence commences the country of the Balooches, who are at preſent tributaries to Zemaun Shah, king of Cabul.—Conſult the map.

kaneer, was, from its natural poſition, almoſt inacceſſible to an enemy, there being no water to be procured nearer than twelve miles. The garriſon being numerous, Mr. Thomas thought it moſt eligible to batter in breach, which he did, and was making the neceſſary preparations for ſtorming, when the enemy capitulated. He allowed them to march out with the honours of war, and immediately put the Battie chiefs in poſſeſſion of the place.

Several other places were then taken poſſeſſion of, and various actions took place, by which, and the unhealthineſs of the climate, Mr. Thomas's troops were reduced to one third only of their original ſtrength. This was the more unpleaſant, as the brother of one of the chiefs abovementioned, who was at variance with him, commenced hoſtilities againſt Mr. Thomas, who, on account of the deficiency of his force, from the cauſes above ſtated, being ſcarcely equal to the encounter, was compelled to fortify his camp.

By night the enemy made frequent attacks; but, unſucceſsful in all attempts, at length gave up the point, and withdrew their army.

Mr. Thomas then marched and took poſſeſſion of the town of Futtahbad, which with ſeveral others he burnt, and would now, in all probability, have got poſſeſſion of the whole country, had not the enemy at this time received aſſiſtance from their neighbour, the Seik chief of Puttialah. That chief, having ſent one thouſand cavalry to their aid, and concluded a treaty of alliance, Mr. Thomas did not deem the preſent moment favourable for a proſecution of hoſtilities. He therefore returned to Jyjur, in order to afford ſome relief to his people from the diſtempers they had contracted in the courſe of the campaign.

About this time, Luckwa, through the intrigues of Mr. Perron at Scindiah's durbar, had been again ſuperſeded in his command. To haſten his downfall, and if poſſible take him priſoner, Perron marched againſt him with his whole force.

But Luckwa, leaving his camp and baggage a prey to the enemy (who on their arrival were too much taken up in plundering to follow in the purſuit), and having previouſly ſent

off his family to ſeek an aſylum in the dominions of Joudpore, thus effected his own eſcape.

Among the Rajpoot ſtates, the ſituation of Joudpore is deſerving of particular attention; and we ſhall therefore, as on ſimilar occaſions, turning aſide from the detail of military tranſactions, embrace the opportunity thus afforded of taking a retroſpective ſketch of the reſources of the country, as well as preſent our readers with an account of ſome of the manners and cuſtoms peculiar to this ſingular people.

CHAPTER XII.

Geographical deſcription of Joudpoor or Marwar —Manners and cuſtoms of the inhabitants— —Hiſtory—Mr. Thomas's military operations —Capture of Bhaut—Tranſactions in the territories of Roy Kellaun.

JOUDPOOR or Marwar is bounded on the north by Beykaneer, north-weſt by Jeſſelmere, and weſt by the deſert; on the ſouth-weſt by the country of the Sindys, ſouth by the province of Guzurat, ſouth-eaſt by Mewar, and eaſt by the dominions of Jypoor.

It is in length two hundred and twenty coſs, and in breadth one hundred and eighty, at the computation of two Britiſh miles to the coſs.

This extent of country is ſuppoſed formerly to have contained from eight to ten thouſand villages, including the capital towns within its range. The population was then great, but at preſent it poſſeſſes not more than five thou-

ſand inhabited villages, with a conſiderable decreaſe of population. The ſouthern, ſouth-eaſtern, and eaſtern frontiers of Joudpoor are abundantly fertile. The land is well watered by ſtreams, which, as in Mewar, flow from the mountains. It yields wheat, barley, and other kinds of grain common in India. Excluſive of theſe advantages, lead mines are found, which conſiderably add to the revenues of the ſtate. The imports into Joudpoor conſiſt of cloths, ſhawls, ſpices, opium, rice, ſugar, ſteel, and iron. They export ſalt, camels, bullocks, and horſes: the latter are ſtrong, boney, and of high ſtature. The bullocks are of a very large ſize, as are likewiſe the camels. In ſhort, the breed of cattle in general is ſuperior to that of the neighbouring ſtates.

The inhabitants of Joudpoor are Rhatore Rajepoots. They are not only a more comely race of men as to perſon, but are braver, poſſeſs a higher ſenſe of honour, and are more independant than their ſurrounding neighbours. Mr. Thomas aſcribes theſe diſtinguiſhing characteriſtics to phyſical cauſes, to the influence of climate, and to their intermarrying with the

pureſt caſt of the Rajepoot tribes. Theſe are the Seeſodyah, the Kutchwah, the Adda, and the Bawtee. To theſe cauſes may be added the good examples ſet them, both as to manners and morals, by a ſucceſſion of wiſe and prudent princes, who, firſt by their achievements in war abroad, and afterwards by the care they took of their affairs at home, in the internal regulations of their country, have contributed in a very high degree to ameliorate the character and diſpoſitions of their ſubjects.

The Rhatore Rajepoots are mild in their manners, and are poſſeſſed of a natural politeneſs which renders their ſociety extremely agreeable. When a Rhatore has paſſed his word for protection, it may ſtrictly be relied on. They are averſe to litigious controverſy. In their ſocial converſations they carefully avoid diſputes, and pay the greateſt attention to the perſon who is ſpeaking. In their hoſpitality they exceed the bounds of more civiliſed nations: for ſo attentive are they to the performance of this duty, that, in the interior parts of the country, the head of a village will not ſit

down to eat his own meal until he has been ſatisfied that travellers and ſtrangers have received every accommodation which his village affords. A rare and ſingular inſtance of primeval ſimplicity of manners!

They delight in warlike exerciſe, are fond of the chaſe, and firing their matchlocks. Retired after the fatigues of hunting, they are accuſtomed to hold ſocial aſſemblies. They liſten with great earneſtneſs and eagerneſs to the *bauhtee*, or poets, who, like the bards of of old, recite in heroic numbers the warlike deeds of their anceſtors.

In the adminiſtration of juſtice they are alike ſingular. Murder, the fouleſt of crimes, is ſeldom puniſhed with death; and for this reaſon, that it ſcarcely ever occurs, except when occaſioned by a ſpirit of revenge for perſonal injuries: and for this they have the ſanction of cuſtom from time immemorial.

Theft is puniſhed by baniſhment; ſmaller crimes by a reprimand, which, from the ſpirit of the Rhatore Rajepoot, generally terminates

in a voluntary exile from his native country, where he cannot endure to live after being ſubjected to reproach. In this, likewiſe, the ſpirit of this extraordinary race is conſpicuous: a man who goes into voluntary exile may if he pleaſes, after a ſtated period, return to his native place; whereas the poſſibility of return is rigidly precluded to him who is baniſhed for the degrading vice of theft. Although the Rajepoot chiefs, in their reſpective diſtricts, aſſume to themſelves an excluſive and arbitrary right over the lives and property of their ſubjects, yet it is not conſidered by the natives as a hardſhip, as their mild, conciliating ſway renders eaſy the condition of the peaſantry.

Fugitives of all deſcriptions from the neighbouring countries are received without diſtinction; and, except in caſes of theft and murder, are ſure of protection and ſupport. So high a ſenſe do they entertain of the laws and rights of hoſpitality, that they not only refuſe to deliver up the delinquents, but are even accuſtomed to aſſiſt in forwarding them through the country to the confines of the neighbouring ſtate.

It does not appear that a cuſtom ſo ſingular obtains in any other part of Hindooſtan. In the management of their domeſtic concerns, the Rhatore Rajepoots are no leſs remarkable for their attention to the female part of the family.

A plurality of wives, though admitted by the laws of the country, is ſeldom practiſed, except among the princes and great men, who on theſe occaſions are actuated by motives of policy and ambition. Among this tribe of Rajepoots, the mother of the eldeſt ſon is held in moſt reſpect.

Females, on the death of their huſbands, often reſign themſelves to the flames with the moſt heroic fortitude.

This act is however voluntary. But, in the opinion of the Rajepoots themſelves, thoſe females would be diſhonoured in the eſtimation of their countrywomen who preferred dragging on a reproachful exiſtence. They would be ſhunned in ſociety; and at the houſe of their father, or that of their father-in-law,

generally be compelled to paſs the remainder of their lives in ſolitary widowhood.

From the early period of ſix years of age, all Rajepoot females are concealed from the ſight and converſation of men, except their neareſt relations. In the table of conſanguinity on this occaſion are included fathers, uncles, brothers, and couſins.

With theſe exceptions, a Rajepoot lady would conſider her reputation as ſullied by expoſure to the ſight of a man. To ſo high a pitch indeed do they carry their proud ſenſe of honour in regard to the female character, that it not unfrequently terminates in a manner moſt ferocious and lamentable.

When an honourable Rajepoot, whoſe family is with him, finds himſelf ſurrounded by the enemy, and a force ſo ſuperior that the hope or poſſibility of eſcape is utterly excluded, he firſt enquires whether, if by ſurrender, he can ſecure the honour of his family. Should this be found impracticable, or even doubtful, he forms and immediately executes his deſperate

project. Clothing himself in a yellow dress, which is the symbol of despair, he, in company with others of his nearest relations, repairs to the apartments of the women, when the whole of the females are involved in a promiscuous and indiscriminate slaughter; the women themselves, on this occasion, not unfrequently raising their hands against their own lives!

On the completion of this horrid deed, the furious Rajepoot, rushing out like a lion, bears down every thing before him: it is death alone that can satisfy him for the loss of his tenderest and dearest connections. In this instance alone will he strike a falling foe. The act which he has lately committed works him up to a state of absolute insanity. Despair gives him courage more than mortal; and if, by his enthusiastic and furious onset, he should chance to overcome the enemy, though ever so superior in point of numbers, when opposition is absolutely at an end, and his frame exhausted with fatigue, is on the point of yielding to nature, he disdains to survive the loss of his family, but terminates the awful scene by generously plunging his sword into his own bosom!

For theſe and other obſtinate prejudices, the Rajepoots have been accuſed of cruelty; but it muſt be conſidered, in extenuation of the act, that this reſolution is founded on principle; it is imbibed in their infancy, and almoſt ſucked in with their parent food; that it is juſtified by cuſtom and precedent, and that a Rajepoot who ſhould ſurvive the diſhonour of his wife and family, would be treated by his brethren to the remainder of his life with contempt and never-ending reproach.

Although the circumſtances above related do ſometimes occur, it is by no means frequent, ſince the ſpirit of this people being known, it is not difficult to be avoided.

Throughout Hindooſtan the ſanctity of the haram is in general reſpected; and, except in caſes of reſiſtance, hoſtility is ſeldom carried to extremity; while on the contrary it not unfrequently happens that, by a previous ſtipulation between the contending parties, the females of either family are accuſtomed to aſk and to receive the protection of their enemies.

The Rhatores intermarry with other tribes, but of the pureſt blood, though they will not give their children either to the Bundeelahs, Scindiahs, or Holkars, whom they conſider of inferior caſt and impure blood.

The cuſtom of putting to death the females of the family, as remarked on a former occaſion, likewiſe obtains among the Rhatore Rajepoots; although one of their late princes, rajah Beejah Sing, by prohibiting the ſhedding of blood of any kind throughout his dominions, endeavoured to reclaim them from this ſanguinary prejudice; the preſent ſovereign of Joudpoor, by name Becun Sing, being a weak prince, effeminate, and luxurious, his ſubjects have already relapſed into their ancient and moſt abhorred cuſtom. The chief force of Joudpoor is in cavalry, and has always been conſidered as formidable.

Their horſes are good; and their ſtrength in cavalry Mr. Thomas computes at twenty-five thouſand men; though, ſince the acceſſion of the late rajah, and in their wars with the Mahrattas, they have ſeldom been able to bring into

the field more than twenty thouſand Rhatore Rajepoots.

The rajah of Joudpoor has generally in his pay from four to ſix thouſand mercenaries, two thouſand of which are cavalry; and in caſes of emergency he might expect to be joined by the troops of Beykaneer. His force in cavalry may on the whole be eſtimated at thirty thouſand men.

On their infantry, like many others in the interior parts of India, they place but ſmall reliance, being ſeldom employed except in the garriſons.

The artillery is numerous, and conſiſts of ſeveral hundred pieces of cannon, moſt of which were taken by the anceſtors of the preſent rajah, when that prince ſurpriſed the camp of the emperor Aurung Zebe, in the defiles of the Rhatore mountains, on the return of the imperial army from the Deccan.*

* Conſult Dow's History of Hindoostan, vol. iii.

This artillery however, ſeveral of the pieces being ſo much honeycombed from age, and almoſt all of them deſtitute of carriages, cannot excite much apprehenſion. The arms of a Rhatore Rajepoot conſiſts of a ſcimitar, made of a ſpecies of iron called *ſarohee*, which, though well calculated for cutting, is brittle in ſubſtance; a ſpear, and ſome of them have matchlocks, though in general the Rhatores truſt to their ſwords.

Of their bravery we have before ſpoken; but their ſingularity of character extends even to their method in fighting, as they will not kill a flying enemy, or ſhed blood when reſiſtance ceaſes.

Averſe to plunder, though even in the enemy's country, they will not indulge themſelves in predatory warfare; a practice ſo common with the Mahrattas and other of their neighbours. It is in actual combat alone they are truly formidable. In the charge of cavalry in particular, Mr. Thomas thinks they are ſuperior to moſt of the horſemen in India; but

when headed by their prince in perſon, or by a favourite and ſucceſsful general, they are in his opinion irreſiſtible.

The revenues of Joudpoor chiefly ariſe from the *rah darees*, or road-duties. There is likewiſe a duty levied on merchandiſe of all kinds, the excluſive revenue produced from the poll-tax in capital cities, which is conſidered as a kind of privy purſe to ſupply the expences of the ſovereign, and a ſtipulated annual tribute from thoſe chiefs who hold their lands in Jaiedad, for the payment of the troops.

Theſe together may amount to about twenty lacks of rupees, which is the ſole property of the rajah. With regard to other funds, eſpecially the tribute which is paid to the Mahrattas, the extra expences incurred by government in raiſing additional troops in times of emergency, and various other contingencies, theſe are ſubſcribed for by the principal landholders; and the money thus conſolidated is thrown into the general treaſury of the ſtate.

The Rhatore Rajepoots attribute their origin

and firſt ſettlement in Joudpoor to the following tradition, as handed down in regular ſucceſſion from father to ſon.

About ſeven hundred years ſince, three brothers of a noble family at Kinnouge quitted that city by mutual agreement, and travelled weſtward towards Jeſſelmere.

Their names were Joud Sing, Kundal Sing, and another whoſe name Mr. Thomas has forgotten.

In their route to the place above-mentioned they paſſed by the town of Joudpoor, at that time an inconſiderable place, inhabited by Bramins; who, happening to be at variance with their neighbours, ſolicited and obtained the aſſiſtance of the three brothers, and were, in conſequence, ſoon put in poſſeſſion of their rights. On the performance of this ſervice, the Bramins would gladly have got rid of their powerful allies; but they liking the country were deſirous of ſettling in it altogether, and for this purpoſe they ſent for their reſpective families, who had been left at Kinnouge.

The Bramins, however, at firſt reſiſted this intruſion, but in the end being detected in a conſpiracy to aſſaſſinate the Rajepoot chiefs, they fell a ſacrifice to their own treachery, and were themſelves, without mercy, put to the ſword.

From that period the authority of the Rajepoots commenced in Joudpoor, and Joud Sing, as the elder brother, gave his own name to the place where they had firſt ſtopped. He founded the preſent city of that name, which in proceſs of time became the capital of the Rhatore Rajepoots.

Kundul Sing, the ſecond brother, took poſſeſſion of the neighbouring territory of Beykaneer, where he ſettled with his family: and the deſcendants of the third brother at preſent occupy the diſtrict of Behadra.

Mr. Thomas not chooſing to remain inactive, and arrears to a large amount being due to him from his northern diſtricts, he reſolved to march thither. In his route he puniſhed a numerous and daring banditti, who had frequently an-

noyed him by their predatory attacks; and who, having been joined by numbers of the peasantry who were assembled in considerable force at the village of Seesana, now confident in their numbers, issued forth from their strong hold to give battle to Mr. Thomas on the plain. But their temerity proved their destruction; for his troops, after a desperate conflict, not only completely defeated the enemy by driving them off the plain, but followed so close at their heels as to enter the town along with the fugitives, where they killed and wounded upwards of seven hundred men. His own loss on this occasion was considerable; but the capture of this place struck such terror throughout the country, that the remainder submitted without a struggle.

Mr. Thomas having raised the necessary contributions, and being satisfied in regard to the arrears due to his troops, next levied contributions on the districts held by Simbonauth, one of Luckwa's collectors in the neighbourhood of Sehaurunpore. Simbonauth was at that time in the Doo Ab, with a numerous though confused and disorderly rabble. He had lately sustained some smart skirmishes with the troops

ſent againſt him by Mr. Perron; but his troop having been corrupted by means of a large ſum of money, which Perron found means to diſtribute, Simbonauth was at length neceſſitated to ſubmit, and give up part of his diſtricts, to ſecure the remainder from the graſp of the Mahrattas.

Mr. Thomas having thus raiſed the ſum required, returned to Hanſi. About this time Mr. Perron, who had in vain exerted himſelf to obtain poſſeſſion of the perſon of Luckwa, or his family, returned from the army. Well aware that little was to be gained by open hoſtilities with the Rajepoots, he marched back to Delhi, "in order," ſays Mr. Thomas, "to "gather eaſier laurels from the grain merchant, "Simbonauth who was by this time once "more ready to attempt the recovery of the "diſtricts which he had been ſo recently com-"pelled to reſign."

Soon after his arrival at Delhi, Mr. Perron with a conſiderable body of men, having croſſed the Jumna, paſſed into the Dooab, to act againſt Simbonauth; at the ſame time he diſpatched

letters to Mr. Thomas, which he pretended to have received from the Paiſhwa, containing orders enjoining him to aſſiſt Luckwa, who was declared to be the protector of the family of the deceaſed Scindiah, and directed to remain in the ſervice of his widow. Theſe letters Mr. Thomas knew to be forged, and was moreover well aware that Luckwa was at this time, as he had ever been, his declared and inveterate enemy; and on ſeveral occaſions had endeavoured to overthrow his authority, by promiſing grants of his country in the Paiſhwa's name to other people. This behaviour induced Mr. Thomas to regret not having afforded aid to Simbonauth; as he might at this juncture not only have ſaved him, but cruſhed thoſe who not long after effected his downfall.

Simbonauth had requeſted Mr. Thomas to come to his aſſiſtance, but without ſucceſs.

Mr. Thomas however offered him an aſylum within his own diſtricts. He adviſed him not to think of reſiſting Mr. Perron with his preſent confuſed and diſorderly force. This advice, though ſalutary, was of no avail; for

Simbonauth, confiding in the proteſtations of his followers, reſolved to remain in the Dooab, and wait the approach of the enemy. The event manifeſted the truth of Mr. Thomas's prediction; as on the actual appearance of the enemy, the troops of Simbonauth not only deſerted, but actually endeavoured by treacherous means to ſeize his perſon, and deliver him up a priſoner. Diſappointed in their treacherous deſigns, they went over to the enemy; but not before Simbonauth had fortunately effected his eſcape.

Repairing to the Punjab, he there ſought and obtained an aſylum in the diſtricts of Baug Sing, chief of Booreah.

At this time Mr. Thomas received intelligence that ſeveral of his diſtricts, particularly thoſe in the vicinity of Hanſi, were in a ſtate of actual rebellion, and had plundered the merchants reſorting to that place of a very conſiderable ſum of money, and other valuable effects. Among others concerned in this revolt, were the zemindars of Bulhalli, Sorani, Jumalpore, and Bhuwaul.

This laſt mentioned town is computed to contain ten thouſand inhabitants, who retain a character ſo remarkable for bravery, that ſeveral armies have been defeated in attempting the reduction of that place. Among others, the late Iſmaeel Beg, with ſixteen thouſand men, and one hundred pieces of cannon, beſieged it for a long time in vain. The inhabitants are Rahtore Rajepoots, and poſſeſs the accuſtomed valour of that tribe; although this character has in ſome inſtances been ſullied by a cruelty not uſual among the reſt of their brethren.

It being the rainy ſeaſon when this rebellion broke out, and Mr. Thomas apprehending the moſt ſerious conſequences if the cultivation of the lands was prevented, marched with all poſſible expedition towards the rebels, and firſt appeared before the town of Bulhalli.

In that place were three thouſand men, who, although well armed, were badly ſupplied with proviſions. He might, according to his uſual cuſtom, have ſtormed, but thinking from the number and bravery of the garriſon the event might prove doubtful, had recourſe to the ſurer means of reducing it by a blockade.

Having erected a chain of redoubts, well fortified and ſupplied with artillery, he completely encircled the place, encompaſſing the whole by a ditch twelve feet in depth. As no proviſions could enter the town, the garriſon after ſome days experienced diſtreſs; they made repeated ſallies, but having to croſs the ditch before they could reach the redoubts on the plain, they became expoſed to the whole fire of the trenches, and were in conſequence defeated in every ſucceſſive attack. To increaſe their annoyance, Mr. Thomas began to draw off the water from a neighbouring reſervoir, which reduced them to the neceſſity of drinking the water from the wells within the fort; this being bitter in its quality rendered it unwholeſome, and cauſed ſickneſs within the garriſon. Proviſions now became ſo ſcarce that nothing remained but damaged grain.

During the ſiege of this place the inhabitants of Bhowanee, a neighbouring town, had made ſeveral attempts to throw in ſuccours, but in vain. To retaliate upon them, Mr. Thomas ordered his cavalry to make excurſions in the neighbourhood of Bhowanee,

and plunder the country. Their exertions were attended with ſucceſs: upwards of one hundred and fifty perſons were killed in reſiſting, and the cavalry brought away with them three thouſand head of cattle, which they depoſited ſafely in Mr. Thomas's camp. This laſt attack having deterred the people of Bhowanee from any further interruption, and no ſuccours as yet having arrived from Mr. Perron, the garriſon, ſeeing no likelihood of aſſiſtance from without, conſented to capitulate. Compoſed of people belonging to different villages, and having ſeparate intereſts to adjuſt, they could not come to any determination among themſelves. By this time, from the want of proviſions, from diſeaſe, and other cauſes, they were reduced to one third of their original number; even of the few that remained ſeveral were then ill. Mr. Thomas, deſirous of putting at end to theſe altercations, drew out his troops with intent to ſtorm the place; but the enemy perceiving his reſolution, at laſt conſented to capitulate; they agreed to pay him the ſum of 30,000 rupees, and to deliver up the fort with the property contained therein. Hoſtages having been

taken for the performance of theſe articles, Mr. Thomas returned to Hanſi, where he employed himſelf in completing ammunition and ſtores, fully determined to invade the Punjab, and puniſh the rajah of Pattialah, for his treacherous conduct in breaking the treaty, by affording aid to the Batties in the preceding year.

That chief (whoſe force conſiſted of fifteen hundred cavalry and one thouſand infantry) was at this time beſieging his ſiſter in her fort. Aſſured of ſpeedy relief, this gallant lady ſtill continued to hold out; and Mr. Thomas's preparations being at length completed, he firſt marched to her relief. On his approach the rajah thought proper to raiſe the ſiege, and retire within the fortifications of Sonaum.* Thither he was followed by Mr. Thomas, who intended to have ſtormed the place; but the unexpected arrival of Tarah Sing, an ally, and ſon-in-law of the rajah, with a very conſider-

* Sonaum, a large town, situated 22 coss to the westward of Pattialah.

able force, for the preſent prevented the attack.

By this time alſo the neighbouring peaſantry having joined the rajah's ſtandard, determined Mr. Thomas to relinquiſh his intention until a more favourable opportunity. Numerous bodies of cavalry continued daily to hover round the ſkirts of his army during the march, by which he ſuſtained great annoyance. After a fatiguing march of four-and-twenty miles, on coming to the ground, he was ſurpriſed by the ſound of the Thamuck.*

He encamped near the town of Bellud. A large body of the enemy, who were concealed in a neighbouring jungle, waited the event with impatience, and hoped to take advantage of the diſorder of Mr. Thomas's troops, whilſt attacked by the town's people, and cut them to pieces. It is here neceſſary to remark, that

* Thamuck, a large military drum, in common use in the north-west parts of India, the sounding of which is always considered as a prelude to hostilities.

in conſequence of the continued ſtate of warfare in thoſe parts, the villages and towns are ſtrongly fortified, and capable of making a deſperate reſiſtance againſt the attacks of their predatory neighbours.

The walls of the town aforementioned were nine feet thick, with a ditch twenty feet in depth, and the garriſon numerous. Mr. Thomas, therefore, without loſs of time, made preparations for ſtorming before he could be attacked by the enemy. By a vigorous aſſault, he carried the place with the loſs of only eighty of his own people, though with upwards of five hundred of the enemy; and though he exerted every means in his power to prevent a continuance of the ſlaughter, he was unſucceſsful: the rancorous enmity which ſubſiſted between his own troops, who were mooſulmauns, and the Seiks being ſo great, that the former never omitted any opportunity of revenging themſelves on the latter in the ſevereſt manner.

The town's people who ſurvived the aſſault were ranſomed by a large ſum of money. Mr.

Thomas's views were now directed to dividing the enemy's force, which conſiſted of ten thouſand men, to raiſe contributions in the neighbouring diſtricts, and alſo to explore the country. To effect theſe objects, he encamped in a centrical poſition between the towns of Pattialah and Sonaum. Deſirous however of puniſhing Tarah Sing, whom, as we have before ſeen, had come to the aſſiſtance of the rajah, Mr. Thomas now determined to advance towards Malhere Kotela, the enemy's principal reſidence. This town is ſituate on the Punjab frontier; the road lay through a thick jungle, well adapted for an ambuſcade. He was marching quietly along, when a ſmart firing was heard in the front of his line. Inſtantly repairing to the ſpot, he found that a party who had advanced to reconnoitre were attacked by a ſuperior body of the enemy. By the time Mr. Thomas arrived, the party attacked had got out of the jungle to the entrance of an extenſive plain; and he now perceived that the preſent aſſault had been made only with a view to call off his attention from he large and populous town of Bhaut.

This town was garriſoned by the troops of Tarah Sing, to the amount of three thouſand men.

Mr. Thomas nevertheleſs reſolved to ſtorm it. The walls of the fort were twelve feet thick and thirty in height; four ſtrong baſtions, well fortified with cannon, commanding the town below, as well as the plain adjoining, it was in all reſpects a place difficult of acceſs. Mr. Thomas himſelf, at the head of a ſelect body of his troops, entered nearly oppoſite the centre of the town; whilſt Mr. Hopkins, the ſon of a field officer in the Eaſt India Company's ſervice, now in Mr. Thomas's employ, led on his party to ſtorm the eaſtern angle. The affair was deſperate; and though the town was ſoon ſet on fire, the enemy made a brave and determined reſiſtance. Mr. Hopkins gallantly advancing to the attack, ſtormed in the quarter aſſigned him, though at the moment of ſucceſs he was unfortunately ſhot through the body, and ſeveral other officers were killed or diſabled, the enemy ſtill keeping up a tremendous fire from the fort. The affair preſented a doubtful aſpect. A large

body of cavalry making their appearance without the town, Mr. Thomas's troops, though in poſſeſſion of the place, whether from the exceſſive heat occaſioned by the ſurrounding flames, or the ſevere fire they ſuſtained from the enemy in the fort, were inclined to retreat. At that critical inſtant Mr. Thomas, having with the greateſt preſence of mind brought up a ſix-pounder cloſe to the gate of the fort, by repeated diſcharges almoſt demoliſhed it; the enemy then gave up the conteſt, and by ſubmiſſion ſaved a further effuſion of blood on both ſides.

The lives of the people within the fort were granted, but Mr. Thomas compelled them to pay him fifty thouſand rupees.

The chief of Malhere Kotelah now thought proper to change ſides; and being like other Patans, adopted the practice of his countrymen by connecting himſelf with the party from whom he expected to derive moſt advantage.

He agreed to pay Mr. Thomas a ſum of

money, and moreover ſent a body of troops under the command of his nephew to join him.

Kurrum Sing a Seik chief, and ruler of the diſtrict of Shahabad, had for ſome time been hoſtile towards Mr. Thomas; and though at his firſt ſettlement he had made profeſſions of friendſhip, very ſoon altered his conduct. To encourage his enmity towards Mr. Thomas, the rajah of Pattialah offered his daughter in marriage to the ſon of Kurrum Sing, and their union was followed by an open declaration of war. The troops of Pattialah were reinforced with five thouſand Seiks. On the junction of theſe troops, a grand council of war was held; and it was there reſolved that a general combination of the Seik chiefs ſhould be formed, to expel Mr. Thomas from the country. They conſidered him as a dangerous perſon, and well knew that if he was ſucceſsful on the preſent occaſion, they might hereafter expect the moſt ſerious ill conſequences to their tribe from his future incurſions.

Mr. Thomas, by his ſpies in the enemies'

camp, received correct information of all their deliberations, but had no apprehenſion for the event; being well convinced, that a body of men, though ever ſo numerous, being under the command of ſo many different leaders, each of them influenced by their own ſeparate intereſt, were incapable of executing any plan with that degree of promptneſs which in military tranſactions can alone enſure ſucceſs.

A circumſtance now aroſe that turned the ſcale much in the enemy's favour.

Roy Kellaun, an independant chief on the north-weſtern frontier of the Punjab,* and whoſe revenue amounted to five lacks of rupees, had lately died, and was ſucceeded by his eldeſt ſon Roy Elias, then a youth.

The Rannee, his mother, in conſequence of the tender age of her ſon, thought proper to aſſume the reins of government; and though deſirous of doing all the juſtice in her power, was, from inexperience, wholly unfit to tranſact

* Consult the map.

the affairs of her country. The neighbouring Seiks, who, during the life-time of the late rajah, had, through his policy and good management, continued on friendly terms, now perceiving the unprotected ſtate of his infant ſon, joined in invading his territories; which having plundered and overrun, they ſoon, with the exception of a few forts (from their natural ſtrength deemed inacceſſible) brought under ſubjection the greater part of the country. About this time Zemaun Shah, king of Caḃul, arrived at Lahore, a city fifty coſs diſtant from the young rajah's capital. This proximity induced the princeſs regent to implore the aſſiſtance of that monarch, in reinſtating her ſon in his authority; and for that purpoſe ſhe accordingly diſpatched a vakeel to Lahore.

The Sieks, whether it roſe from a dread of being attacked by Zemaun Shah, or they were apprehenſive that aſſiſtance would be brought from another quarter, ſhortly after this event thought proper ſuddenly to evacuate the country, when the peaſantry returned to their alle-

giance. But now a new obſtacle aroſe, which not only prevented for the preſent a continuance of the Rannee's tranquillity, but plunged her into ſtill deeper misfortunes than thoſe ſhe had before experienced.

CHAPTER XIII.

Singular account of an impoſtor among the Seiks—His pretenſions; he is detected by a Seik chief—Threatens Mr. Thomas—is compelled to fly—reduction of Kanhori—attack of Sefeedoo—termination of the campaign.

IN the Seik army was a man of the Cuttry tribe, ambitious, artful, and intriguing, and whoſe knowledge of mankind, from long and deep reflection, had convinced him it was no difficult matter to render his countrymen the dupes of his own artifices: this man, who pretended to trace his lineage from the great prophet Nanick, the founder and lawgiver of the Seiks, had a regular correſpondence with ſome of his creatures in the Abdali camp, and from time to time received intelligence of the motions and intentions of Zemaun Shah. Informed by his emiſſaries that the Shah had determined to return to his own dominions, and the exact time being ſpecified for his ſetting out,

this artful impoſtor aſſembled the chiefs of the Seik army, and pretending to the gift of inſpiration, acquainted them that during the preceding night he had been favoured with a viſit from their prophet; who after lamenting the hardſhips under which his favourite tribe had laboured by the invaſion of Abdallis, he had, through the permiſſion of the Almighty, been enabled to prevail on Zemaun Shah to return to his own country, and that at the moment they were now diſcourſing that prince had actually commenced his march.

Surpriſed at the apparent abſurdity of this declaration, many of the chiefs treated the information with deſerved ridicule; but when at three o'clock in the afternoon of the ſame day, intelligence arrived of the actual march of the Shah, as predicted by the impoſtor, the whole army appeared ſtruck with contrition for their error, and inſiſted on their chiefs deprecating the anger of this deſcendant of Nanick, by expiatory offerings, and preſents of all kinds.

Fully ſatisfied with the ſucceſs of his ſtratagem, he now affected a lofty deportment, and

it was with great difficulty that the chiefs prevailed on him to accept the proffered offerings; nor did he wholly relent until they offered to return with an army to Lodhana, and put him in poſſeſſion of the country of the unfortunate Roy Elias; to this he not only yielded a ready aſſent, but added a falſehood to his former deceit, by informing the chiefs that the late invaſion of the Shah had been ſolely owing to the intrigues of the Rannee, aided by the machinations of her neighbour the Patan chief of Malhere, who had invited the Abdalli Prince to take poſſeſſion of the Punjab.

The Seik army daily increaſing in numbers by acceſſions of the peaſantry, who joined them from all quarters, now directed their march to Malhere, and reſolved to begin their operations with the ſiege of that place.

The Patans who were in Malhere came out of the city to encounter the Seiks on the plain, but the preſence of their pretended prophet inſpiring them with more than uſual confidence, the Patans were repulſed, and driven

from the field with great ſlaughter; and the Seiks entering the town along with the fugitives, the place was quickly taken, while the few who remained, having quitted the city, ſought refuge in the fort of Kotelah.

The Seiks prepared to follow up their victory by laying ſiege to that place; and ſo great was the conſternation of the Patans, that though it was defended by a very high wall, a ditch, and contained a garriſon of 600 men, they were utterly unable to reſiſt; and had it not been for the aſſiſtance of their ally, the rajah of Pattialah, who ſent a body of his own troops for their protection, they muſt have ſurrendered at diſcretion.

This addition of force however rendered abortive all attempts of the Seiks to reduce Kotelah; they therefore ſeparated, though a conſiderable body, who to all appearance ſtill adhered to the impoſtor, diſperſed themſelves over the Rannee's country, of which, after much predatory warfare, they got poſſeſſion.

Reduced to a ſituation truly deplorable, that

princeſs had now recourſe to negotiation; and through the mediation of the chief of the Pattialah concluded a treaty with the Seiks, by which ſhe agreed to pay the ſum of two lacs of rupees, a part of which was depoſited in caſh, and the remainder in jewels, horſes, and warlike ſtores.

The impoſtor however, who ſtill had a large force, would agree to no terms but the actual ſurrender of the whole of the country; and though the young rajah, with a view to mollify the ſeverity of his demand, waited in perſon upon him, threw himſelf at his feet, and in terms moſt ſubmiſſive implored an abatement of his former reſolve, he continued inexorable.

In this ſtate of affairs the impoſtor, who had now got poſſeſſion of the perſon of the young rajah, refuſed to let him return to his mother, and declared he ſhould remain a priſoner until he complied with the terms propoſed.

But Kurrum Sing, one of the chiefs who had hitherto been in the ſervice of the impoſ-

tor, now repented of his credulity, and reſolved to protect the perſon of the rajah, and conduct him in ſafety to his own reſidence. This he reſolutely effected, in ſpite of every effort to the contrary; he conducted the youth to Malhere, and there left him in quiet poſſeſſion of his capital

This conduct excited much indignation in the impoſtor, who now took upon him to cenſure the behaviour of Kurrum Sing on all occaſions, and to threaten him with the vengeance of heaven for thus oppoſing the views of an inſpired perſon. Kurrum Sing however only waited for an opportunity to detect his hypocriſy, and expoſe him to the world, which fortunately ſoon happened.

To preſerve the reputation he had thus acquired for ſanctity, the impoſtor, among other tricks, uſed frequently, at night and by ſtealth, to depoſit a veſſel filled with ſweetmeats under ground. This in the morning was produced to his followers as a preſent from the divinity, declaring at the ſame time that

none ſhould partake of the contents but ſuch as vowed, to the utmoſt of their abilities, to join in the extermination of the Mooſſulman race, as enemies to their own prophet and his religion.

This farce was for a long time continued, and had ſerved to impreſs the minds of his followers with the higheſt reſpect and veneration for his character, but the time was now arrived for his detection. Kurrum Sing, who was well verſed in the arts and deceits practiſed by *fakeers* * upon the vulgar, directed ſome of his own people to repair privately to the place where the veſſel was depoſited; and after having throwu away the contents, to give a more effectual air of ridicule to the diſcovery, to replace them by a quantity of horſe dung. In the morning, when as uſual the veſſel was brought out, the company aſſembled ſhewed marks of the utmoſt horror and aſtoniſhment.

But the pretended prophet, not diſmayed by the accident, replied to their enquiries with a

* Itinerant mendicants.

ſedate and unruffled countenance, that the reaſon of this extraordinary change was manifeſt, as the great founder of their religion had choſen this method to evince his reſentment of their late impious conduct, in concluding a treaty with Mooſſulmaun chiefs, who were the acknowledged enemies of their own faith.

This harangue, however impudent, would have been attended with the deſired effect, had not Kurrum Sing at that inſtant ſtepped forth from the crowd of chiefs, by which the impoſtor was encircled, and in the moſt public manner, accompanied with ſarcaſtic obſervations and much levity, expoſed the whole of the deceit which he had cauſed to be practiſed the preceding night.

The charm was now diſſolved; the remaining chiefs, aſhamed of having ſubmitted to an impoſition ſo groſs, now abandoned him to his fate, and he was left with only about 1000 of his own people; but the peaſantry of the country, who from reſtleſſneſs of ſpirit are

always ready to change their rulers, ſtill adhered to his intereſts, and having joined him in great numbers, brought with them an abundant ſupply of proviſions and other neceſſaries.

The Rannee, without protection, was in no condition to reſiſt; and the Seik chiefs, although they would no longer embrace the impoſtor's cauſe, were nevertheleſs unwilling to fight againſt him; he, therefore, ſoon got poſſeſſion of the Rannee's country, and had formed the ſiege of Lodhana,* about the ſame time that Mr. Thomas, as we have before related, made himſelf maſter of the fort of Bhaut.

It was in this ſituation of her affairs, when reduced almoſt to extremity, that the Rannee determined to apply to Mr. Thomas for his aſſiſtance in expelling the impoſtor from her territories. With this intention ſhe diſpatched a confidential ſervant to his camp, who, on her part, promiſed him a remuneration of a lack of rupees, if he would eſpouſe her cauſe, and re-

* Consult the map.

inſtate her ſon, the young rajah, in his authority.

She promiſed moreover to ſend him an annual tribute of 50,000 rupees, if he would guarantee her ſon in the undiſturbed poſſeſſion of it.

Mr. Thomas, though well aware that by accepting the preſent offer he ſhould draw on himſelf a procraſtinated war, nevertheleſs obſerves with that humane conſideration which always marked his character, that the fallen condition of an ancient and honourable family had great weight with him in forming his reſolution on this head.

In the mean time the impoſtor, hearing of the negotiations betwixt the Rannee and Mr. Thomas, ſent the latter a letter, in which he ſtated, that having called to his aſſiſtance Runjeet Sing and others, the moſt powerful among the Seik chiefs, he was now on his march againſt Mr. Thomas, and adviſed him, if he wiſhed for quarter, to ſend a vakeel directly to

his camp. In this letter, arrogating to himſelf the title of ſucceſſor of Nanick, and ſovereign of the Seik nation, he recommended implicit obedience to his commands. Equally indignant at the ſtyle of the impoſtor's addreſs, as he was regardleſs of his menaces, Mr. Thomas replied, that had he feared the power of the Seiks he would not have penetrated thus far into the Punjab; that he was accuſtomed to receive and not to ſend vakeels; and that if the impoſtor wiſhed to live on amicable terms, he muſt not only pay a ſum of money, as others had been compelled to do, but likewiſe immediately evacuate the territories which he had ſo unjuſtly uſurped from the infant rajah.

The boldneſs of this anſwer only contributed to incenſe the impoſtor, and he prepared to attack Mr. Thomas.

Meanwhile the young rajah, deſpairing of profiting by a longer ſtay with the chief of Pattialah, of his own accord took leave, and came ſtraight to Mr. Thomas's camp. "The "comely appearance (ſays he) of this youth, "his fallen condition, and, above all, the con-

" fidence he ſhewed in placing his whole re-
" liance on one againſt whom he was ſo lately
" leagued in enmity, altogether influenced me
" in his favour, and determined me to uſe
" every exertion in ſupport of his cauſe."

The impoſtor, who by this time had reinforced his army with the troops of Pattialah and others, was encamped in the neighbourhood; but, on Mr. Thomas's advancing, he thought proper to retreat; and his people having no artillery, evacuated the different poſts much faſter than Mr. Thomas could advance to take poſſeſſion. So rapid was his march, that in one place he found the bed, palankeen, tent, and baggage, belonging to the impoſtor, who by a timely retreat ſaved himſelf from being made priſoner, and never afterwards occaſioned any diſturbance.

The Rannee and her ſon were put in poſſeſſion of their country, the moſt active of the rebels were ſeized, and it was not long before the rajah's authority was completely re-eſtabliſhed.

During theſe tranſactions, the chief of Pattialah, having been joined by others, advanced to attack Mr. Thomas, with a determination to expel him the country. Several ſkirmiſhes enſued between the armies, but without much effect on either ſide, neither party being deſirous of riſking a general engagement. The war was therefore carried on in a deſultory manner. The Seiks wiſhed, by annoying his foraging parties, to cut off the ſupplies from his camp. This mode alſo prevented him from making collections; and though nothing ſerious occurred, yet the ſcene of action being on the borders of the young rajah's country, occaſioned great loſs to the cultivation of the lands. Mr. Thomas, therefore, would willingly have carried the war immediately into the enemy's territories. To this, however, neither the rajah or his mother would conſent; but, with the moſt preſſing intreaties, requeſted him to remain, while the Seiks continued in that neighbourhood.

So long as prudence allowed, Mr. Thomas willingly liſtened to the ſolicitations of his allies; but his ammunition beginning to fall

ſhort, he was reluctantly compelled to march toward his own country to procure a ſupply.

The Seiks, as he had foreſeen, haraſſed him on the march; but their attempts proving ineffectual to do him any eſſential injury, only incited him to retaliate, by deſtroying their villages as he paſſed along. Directing his march towards Hanſi, he perceived, not without ſatisfaction, that the whole of the Seik army were following him, by which means the country of his youthful ally would, at leaſt for the preſent, be free from their depredations.

It muſt now be remarked, that previous to Mr. Thomas's ſetting out for the Punjab frontier, the chiefs of Keithul and Jeind, two of his moſt powerful neighbours, had concluded a treaty, by which they agreed to a ceſſation of hoſtilities during his abſence, to abſtain from the invaſion of his territories, and allow him to proſecute the war againſt his enemies. Thoſe chiefs, perceiving the ſtrong combination which had been formed againſt Mr. Thomas, now joined themſelves to his other enemies. He therefore prepared to puniſh them,

Having, by forced marches, got ahead of the Seik army, Mr. Thomas firſt led his troops againſt the fort of Kanhori, which he took by ſtorm, and put the garriſon to the ſword.

The acquiſition of this fortreſs, which was only thirty coſs diſtant from Pattialah, was of great conſequence to him. Situated on the borders of his own territory, and near the Cuggur river, it appeared ſo well calculated for a depoſit of ſtores and ammunition, that he repaired the fortifications, and placed in it a ſtrong garriſon. Then collecting hoſtages from the neighbouring diſtricts, as ſecurity for their future pacific intentions, he marched to Retara, another ſtrong place on the frontier, belonging to Lall Sing. The garriſon conſiſted of five hundred men; but before a breach could be effected, dreading the fate of the inhabitants of Kanhori, they aſked for quarter, and were allowed by Mr. Thomas to march out with the honours of war.

From this place he proſecuted his route towards Hanſi. The hot ſeaſon being now far

advanced, the Seiks, through want of water and forage for their cattle, were compelled to relinquiſh the purſuit; and, drawing off their force, encamped in the neighbourhood of Keithul, there to wait until the approaching rains permitted a renewal of hoſtilities.

Mr. Thomas next marched into the diſtrict of Jeind, from whence he exacted tribute, and took hoſtages; but, from a dearth of water in this neighbourhood to ſupply his troops, he did not think proper at that time to attack it.

During his abſence in the Punjab, Bappoo Scindiah, agreeably to inſtructions received from Mr. Perron, invaded Mr. Thomas's poſſeſſions; but hearing of his return, thought proper to fall back upon the main army, at this time encamped near Delhi.

Mr. Thomas next marched, and laid ſiege to Sefeedoo, a town dependant upon the chief of Jeind. This place was built of brick, and the walls of uncommon height. Having erected three redoubts, in which he placed eighteen

cannon, twelve and ſix pounders, he began to batter the fort, and kept up an inceſſant fire until three o'clock in the afternoon. At this time, fearing that the place might be reinforced during the enſuing night, Mr. Thomas determined on an immediate aſſault. The garriſon conſiſted of ſeven hundred men, three hundred of which remained within the fort; and the reſt ſallying out, deſcended into the ditch, which croſſing with rapidity, they commenced an attack upon Mr. Thomas's advanced poſts; but moſt of the party, among whom were ſome chiefs of diſtinction, were put to the ſword. Mr. Thomas's ſoldiers in their turn attempted to mount the breach; but the ſcaling ladders being found too ſhort, and the ſtorming party at the ſame inſtant aſſailed by the remainder of the troops within the garriſon, theſe gallant men were involved in the greateſt difficulty, and entirely expoſed to the enemy's ſhot, which fell ſo thick among them, and did ſo much execution, that, after a deſperate and hard fought conflict of two hours, Mr. Thomas was compelled to retire, with the loſs of four hundred and fifty of his beſt men.

The gallant Mr. Hopkins, who had been conſpicuous for his ardour throughout the attack, on this occaſion received another ſevere wound.

The enemy, who had likewiſe ſuffered greatly, now attempted to eſcape from the fort, and to cut their way through Mr. Thomas's troops. This, notwithſtanding every exertion on his part, they effected; and having taken ſhelter in a thick foreſt in the neighbourhood, Mr. Thomas thought it uſeleſs to purſue them any longer, but returned to take poſſeſſion of the fort.

During this tranſaction, the Seik army lay within eighteen coſs, and that of Bappoo Scindiah only nine, though both, happily for Mr. Thomas, remained quiet.

He next marched to Kythul. Here the rajah of Pattialah and others of the Seik chiefs, ſent vakeels into his camp to negotiate a peace. Mr. Thomas, on his part, was ſincerely inclined to put an end to the war, as he was well in-

formed that the army of Mr. Perron was now on its march from Delhi, for the avowed purpoſe of affording aid to the Seiks. They likewiſe had recently been informed that diſturbances prevailed in their own country, and therefore haſtened to conclude the preſent negotiations. It was agreed, therefore, that the Seiks ſhould pay the ſum of 1,35,000 rupees, and renounce all pretenſions to the country of Roy Kellaun; that the rajah of Pattialah ſhould be reconciled to his ſiſter, with whom he had been ſo long at variance; that this lady ſhould be reimburſed for the property that had been confiſcated; that certain diſtricts ſhould be ceded to Mr. Thomas; and finally, that the rajah of Pattialah ſhould keep two battalions of infantry in conſtant pay, who were to be ſtationed for the defence of the Punjaub frontier, as a mutual ſafeguard to either party.

"Thus (ſays Mr. Thomas, in his uſual manly and energetic ſtrain,) ended a campaign of ſeven months, in which I had been more ſucceſsful than I could poſſibly have expected

"when I firſt took the field with a force "conſiſting of five thouſand men, and thirty-"ſix pieces of cannon. I loſt in killed, wound-"ed, and diſabled, nearly one third of my "force; but the enemy loſt five thouſand per-"ſons of all deſcriptions. I realiſed near two "hundred thouſand rupees, excluſive of the "pay of my army, and was to receive an ad-"ditional one hundred thouſand for the hoſ-"tages which were delivered up. I explored "the country, formed alliances, and, in ſhort, "was dictator in all the countries belonging to "the Seiks, ſouth of the river Sutledge.*

* Before we take leave of this interesting country, it may not be improper to advert to two of the desiderata of Major Rennel, which, from a perusal of his excellent Memoir accompanying the map of Hindoostan, appear to be as follow:

First, to ascertain the existence of a canal, which was to have been cut by the order of the emperor Firose, from the river Sutledge to the Jumna, the execution of which design would have opened a communication by water from Cabul to Assam.

Second, the altars of Alexander, which, according to Arrian, must have been situated between the Beyah and the Sutledge, near the modern city of Ferozepore.

It is much to be regretted that the spirit of modern travel has not yet reached these distant, though, to the British nation, not wholly inaccessible regions, as no doubt many very curious particulars in ancient history, which have hitherto remained in obscurity, might, by diligent and accurate investigation, be brought to light.

CHAPTER XIV.

Reflections—Combination formed againſt Mr. Thomas—commencement of hoſtilities—battle with Captain Smith—death of Mr. Hopkins—Mr. Thomas's opponents become more and more formidable—treacherous deſigns of his officers—multiplied difficulties—Mr. Thomas is compelled to fly—reaches Hansi—he capitulates—arrives at the Britiſh frontier—his death and character.

LIKE a ſea-worn mariner, who, after encountering the dangers and hardſhips of a long and tedious voyage, is at length gratified with the ſight of land; or as a benighted traveller on his road after a weary journey, loſing himſelf in deſert wilds, or betrayed by falſe tracts in the treacherous ſnow, looks forward to the enjoyments of his peaceful home; ſo are we happy to perceive a proſpect of terminating our labours, in view of a deſired haven.

To this haven, after a little more toſſing on the tempeſtuous ocean of life, and a few more viciſſitudes of fortune, we are anxious to conduct our friend and hero; and, after ſharing with him the perils and dangers of the voyage, finally to place him in that Aſylum, where every trouble is forgotten, and where every ſorrow ceaſes to exiſt.

However flattering might appear the termination of the campaign, Mr. Thomas's good fortune may, at this period, be ſaid to have attained its meridian ſplendour; ſince a dark cloud, which had long been gathering over his head, was now preparing to discharge its malignant contents: its baneful influence threatened even the utter extirpation of thoſe hopes of fortune and independance by which he had ſo long been buoyed up, and which had therefore taken deep root in his aſpiring mind.

But as the combination which was about to be formed againſt him was in the end productive of his downfall, and the death blow to his hopes, it will be neceſſary in this place to take a retroſpective ſurvey of the ſtrength and

reſources of that part of the Mahratta empire, with which he was entering on an intereſting and eventful warfare.

This will equally enable us to comprehend the ſituation of his numerous and powerful enemies, as to appreciate the exertion of thoſe faculties and talents which were now called forth, and which place his laſt ſtruggles for the ſupport of his authority in a point of view highly creditable to his general character. On the death of Madhajee Scindiah in 1794, he was ſucceeded in his poſſeſſions and authority by his nephew Dowlut Row Scindiah. This youth, though of promiſing parts, was by no means equal in capacity to his renowned uncle.

That politic prince, aware of the advantages to be derived from the practice of the European ſyſtem of tactics, and the introduction of military diſcipline into his armies, had, by the aſſiſtance of General Duboign, raiſed ſeveral brigades of infantry, which he left entire to his nephew. Shortly after his elevation, Dowlut Row conſtituted Mr. Perron his commander-

in-chief, whoſe influence has continued to ſway the mind of his maſter from that period until the preſent time.

The force thus raiſed amounted to forty thouſand infantry, thirty thouſand cavalry, with five hundred pieces of heavy artillery.

This acceſſion of force, though diſperſed over an extenſive tract of country, the fruits of the late Scindiah's conqueſts, could, when circumſtances required, be brought to act in concert.

On the other ſide, Holkar, the ruler of Indore, (a province ſituated in the centre of the Dekan) could at this time command an army of fifty thouſand men, with three hundred pieces of cannon; and laſtly, the Seiks, who, as we have already ſeen, were able to bring into the field nearly an equal number.

Holkar, however, not being at variance with Mr. Thomas, muſt not therefore be numbered among his enemies, though the prodigious acceſſion of force againſt him, in an union of the

Seiks and Scindiah, was of itſelf ſufficient to aſtound and overwhelm him.

To counteract the deſigns of his enemies, Mr. Thomas, at the period we are ſpeaking of, had an army whoſe utmoſt force conſiſted of eight battalions of infantry, amounting in all to ſix thouſand men, fifty pieces of cannon, well appointed and well ſerved, one thouſand cavalry, and fifteen hundred Rohillahs, with about two thouſand men, who garriſoned his different forts; but with this force, comparatively ſo ſmall, he had a ſpirit and elevation of mind not to be ſubdued by accident, or depreſſed by ill fortune; and not only waited the event with firmneſs, but declared previous to the commencement of hoſtilities, that if his reſources in money did not fail, he doubted not with his preſent army to hold out againſt the efforts of all the native princes of India.

To preſerve, however, the thread of our narration, it will now be neceſſary to remark, that repeated letters had lately been ſent by Scindiah to Mr. Thomas, to induce him to act in

conjunction with Mr. Perron againſt their common enemies.

In anſwer, he repreſented that Mr. Perron and himſelf being ſubjects of different nations, then in a ſtate of actual hoſtility againſt each other, it was impoſſible they could ever act in concert, or with cordiality. He was moreover convinced, that as a Frenchman, and poſſeſſed of a national enmity againſt him, Mr. Perron would always be induced to repreſent his actions in a light moſt unfavourable to his intereſts: that principles of honour, on the preſent occaſion, forbad his acting under the command of a Frenchman: but if Scindiah was really deſirous of employing him to the advantage of the ſtate, or to his own benefit, he might beſtow on him a ſeparate command, under the control of a Mahratta general; or, concludes Mr. Thomas with much ſpirit, "ſhould you "think proper to appoint me to the ma- "nagement of operations, either offenſive or "defenſive, in any part of the Dekan, Hin- "dooſtan, or Punjaub, I am ready and willing "to undertake the charge, ſo ſoon as the ne-

"ceſſary arrangements for the payment of "my troops can be completed."

In reply to this repreſentation, Scindiah, who had been tutored for the occaſion by Mr. Perron, urged in the ſtrongeſt manner the impoſſibility of conſenting to Mr. Thomas's requeſt, as it would ſerve as an unfavourable precedent; he recommended moreover, that in the preſent inſtance the national enmity of theſe commanders ſhould be laid aſide; and their mutual exertions made for the general benefit of the ſervice, but at all events deſired Mr. Thomas to ſuſpend his reſolution until his own arrival in Hindooſtan.

Some time after the above correſpondence, Mr. Perron wrote to Mr. Thomas, requeſting him to ſend a vakeel to confer upon the ſubject, for the mutual benefit of either party.

This requeſt was inſtantly complied with; and Mr. Thomas's vakeel, having received the neceſſary inſtructions, was diſpatched to Delhi; Arriving at Mr. Perron's camp, which was

pitched in the neighbourhood of that city, he was received in a manner the moſt cordial and flattering.

The affairs of Scindiah were at this time in a ſituation that by no means juſtified a protracted war in his poſſeſſions in Hindooſtan, being himſelf engaged in an eventful and difficult conteſt with his ancient enemy Jeſſwunt Row Holkar.

The cautious chief therefore thought that to temporiſe with Mr. Thomas would be the moſt eligible method; as he might, in the courſe of his preſent warfare, have occaſion for the ſervices of Mr. Perron's troops.

In his maſter's name, therefore, Mr. Perron requeſted an interview. The fort of Behadut Ghur was the place named for the meeting. On his approach to that place, Mr. Thomas was informed that Perron had put to death a Seik chief, who had lately revolted from Scindiah, and of whoſe perſon he had got poſſeſſion by treacherous means.

This intelligence induced Mr. Thomas to obſerve the greateſt circumſpection in the approaching interview. Captain Smith, the ſon of an officer in the honourable Eaſt India Company's ſervice, was diſpatched by Mr Perron to meet and conduct him to the Mahratta camp. Mr. Thomas took along with him on this occaſion 300 cavalry, and two of his moſt approved battalions; being determined to afford no opportunity to his enemies to effect his ruin by treacherous means.

In the month of September, after ſome previous negociation between the parties, Mr. Perron and Mr. Thomas met for the firſt time at the town of Behadur Ghur. Mr. Thomas having received recent information that the affairs of Scindiah preſented an unfavourable aſpect, and that that chief was unequal to the conteſt with Jeſſwunt Row Holkar, hoped the preſent interview would be productive of an amicable adjuſtment of all former differences, and eſtabliſh the future tranquillity and good underſtanding of both parties.

In this, however, he was deceived; for at the

ſecond day's meeting he was much ſurpriſed by a demand, equally ſudden as unſuſpected, from Mr. Perron, requeſting him to give up the diſtrict of Jyjur entirely to the Mahrattas; in lieu of this he was to receive for the ſupport of his battalions the monthly ſum of 50,000 rupees, and henceforth to be conſidered as the immediate ſervant of Dowlut Row Scindiah.

Although this propoſal might have been foreſeen, Mr. Thomas gave it a poſitive denial; and perceiving the nature of the deſign formed againſt him, was aware that he ſhould be required to act againſt Holkar in the preſent war; and if it proved unfavourable to the intereſts of that chief, and his authority was ſubverted, Scindiah would not only diſcontinue the payment of the monthly ſum now offered to Mr. Thomas, but compel him to accept of any terms the Mahratta Government might think proper to impoſe.

For theſe reaſons Mr. Thomas, without further diſcuſſion on the ſubject, abruptly broke up the conference, and marched away in diſguſt.

Pacific meaſures being now at an end, Mr. Perron, to begin the war with advantage, repaired directly to Jyjur, of which, being unfortified, he immediately took poſſeſſion. Mr. Thomas had ſtill left the fort of George Ghur, in which having ſtationed 800 men, he expected it would hold out a conſiderable time, nor was he deceived. La Fontaine, a commander in Mr. Perron's ſervice, having approached that place in the hope of taking it by aſſault, was ſo warmly received by the garriſon as to be compelled to retreat with conſiderable loſs.

The period, however, of Mr. Thomas's final diſcomfiture was not far off. His enemies preſſed on him on all ſides with accumulated vigour; and private treachery coming in aid of public misfortune, he was ſoon reduced to a ſituation the moſt painfully diſtreſſing.

The force of Mr. Perron at this time conſiſted of ten battalions of infantry, ſix thouſand horſe, a body of Rohillas, and ſixty pieces of heavy artillery. The Seiks were likewiſe preparing to ſend againſt him a conſiderable force; and in addition to theſe threatened

evils, ſeveral of his own diſtricts perceiving the diſaſtrous ſituation of his affairs, joined their efforts to thoſe of his enemies.

A part of Mr. Perron's forces was commanded by Captain Smith, whom we have before had occaſion to notice, while a second diviſion was led by Mr. Lewis.

On his arrival at Hanſi, Mr. Thomas loſt no time in completing his ammunition and other ſtores; his intention was firſt to attack Mr. Lewis, but Captain Smith having lately inveſted the fort of George Ghur, by which means the collections in that diſtrict were interrupted, he reſolved to proceed to its relief.

George Ghur* is a ſmall fort erected by Mr. Thomas, when he firſt took poſſeſſion of the pergunnahs made over to him by Appakandarow; it is ſituated four coſs ſouth of Jyjur, and thirty diſtant from Delhi. The unquiet ſtate of the pergunnahs had induced Mr.

* For this account of the position of George Ghur, I am indebted to the kindness of my friend Captain Salkeld of the cavalry.

Thomas to erect this fort with a view to overawe the neighbouring villages, and when finiſhed he placed a ſtrong body of troops in it for its defence.

Mr. Thomas having left a body of Rohillas to defend Hanſi, advanced towards Captain Smith, and after a march of eleven coſs, encamped at the town of Mahim; Mr. Lewis at this time being ſeventeen coſs to the north-weſt of that place.

Here he was informed that Captain Smith, who had got imperfect intelligence of his advance, had withdrawn his guns from the batteries and ſtruck his camp.

Mr. Thomas having ordered the cavalry to proceed with all expedition, continued his march with the infantry towards George Ghur, where, on his arrival late in the evening, he learnt that Captain Smith had retreated.

Early on the enſuing morning Mr. Thomas commenced the purſuit, but Murtuza Khawn, the commandant of his ſecond regiment, who

had received orders to proceed in advance, and cut off the retreat of Captain Smith, moſt unaccountably loſt his road, and the ſoldiers being fatigued, did not come up with their colours; with the only battalion that remained Mr. Thomas, on reaching the rear of Captain Smith's line of march, commenced the attack. Captain, Smith in order to cover the retreat of his artillery and baggage, drew up to receive Mr. Thomas, and after a ſlight cannonade continued his route; at this time Mr. Thomas's ſecond regiment made its appearance, of which, from the cauſes before ſtated, not more than ſeventy men had yet come up, and they advancing incautiouſly into a field of joar* on the right, without having previouſly reconnoitred, were ſuddenly attacked by a battalion of the enemy; his men being ſo few in number made but a feeble reſiſtance, and before they had time to unlimber, the enemy took poſſeſſion of four of their guns.

Mr. Thomas hearing of this diſaſter, immediately advanced to the relief of his troops; he

* A grain very common in India.

was attended on this occaſion by Aſalut Khawn, a native officer, formerly in the ſervice of the Eaſt India Company; they charged the enemy with vigour ſword in hand, and after a ſevere conflict, in which the commandant of the enemy was taken priſoner, gave them a complete defeat.

Mr. Thomas's men, thinned in their numbers, and exhauſted with fatigue, were unable to continue the purſuit; he ſent his cavalry however after the fugitives, who picked up ſeveral ſtands of colours and ſmall arms, which had been thrown away in the retreat.

In this encounter the enemy loſt ſeven hundred men, while that of Mr. Thomas did not exceed one hundred; and had it not been for the ſoldier-like precautions taken by Captain Smith in ſending forward his artillery and baggage, while he made head againſt Mr. Thomas with his infantry, the whole would inevitably have been captured; as it was, he loſt the greater part of his ammunition and baggage.

Captain Smith on his defeat returned to Jyjur, and Mr. Thomas pitched his camp about two miles diſtant from that place.

In the morning he was preparing for a ſecond attack, when his hircarrahs, who had been on the look-out, brought intelligence of the approach of Mr. Lewis from an oppoſite direction, and his own troops being not only fatigued, but many of them diſperſed in ſearch of plunder, he did not think it adviſable at that time to hazard an engagement.

Mr. Thomas now returned to George Ghur, but had ſcarcely reached that place when he received intelligence of Mr. Perron's army having arrived at Byree, three coſs from his own encampment.

On the enſuing morning the enemy prepared to attack him. His ſituation was at this time critical; the battalions who had before retreated from George Ghur now came back, and took poſt within cannon ſhot to the eaſtward of his encampment; the force under Mr. Lewis was ſtationed to the ſouth-weſt;

while the enemy's numerous cavalry attacked him in front.

About four o'clock in the afternoon the action commenced by a heavy cannonade on both ſides; the motions of the enemy had induced Mr. Thomas to divide his army according to the ground he occupied, the advantage of which, allowing for the quality of the troops, was much in his favor; but his battalions not being accuſtomed to be expoſed to a cannonade, he drew up his army on a looſe ſand, which thereby deadened the ſhot and prevented their riſing after the firſt graze.

His force conſiſted of ten battalions of infantry, fifty pieces of cannon, ſix hundred Rohillas, and about five hundred cavalry, not exceeding in the aggregate five thouſand men; of which number only four thouſand could be brought into action.

Of this force five battalions were oppoſed to Mr. Lewis, two were aſſigned for the battalions oppoſite the centre of his line, and three to ſuſtain the ſhock of the enemy's horſe. On

the commencement of the action Mr. Lewis's diviſion came on briſkly, having their guns at the drag ropes; Mr. Thomas, by a rapid diſcharge of round and grape ſhot from his artillery, at firſt threw them into confuſion, and had he been able at this moment to prevent his troops from giving way, would have entirely defeated the enemy; but the centre of his line at this time being hard preſſed by the enemy's cavalry, gave way, and no effort could prevent the remainder from following their example.

This rendered an immediate and ſpirited advance neceſſary to ſupport. For this purpoſe Mr. Thomas ordered Mr. Hopkins, with the right wing, and Mr. Birch with the left, to advance and charge with bayonets in their reſpective wings; which ſervice they performed with no leſs gallantry than ſucceſs.

The enemy halted, and began to retreat; but a heavy fire being ſtill continued from their numerous and well-ſerved artillery, Mr. Thomas's people fell in great numbers, which the enemy's cavalry perceiving charged a ſecond time.

They were not only repulſed with loſs, but purſued by Mr. Thomas's horſe to a conſiderable diſtance from the field of battle. At this time intelligence was brought to Mr. Thomas, who was on the left wing, that Mr. Hopkins had received a ſevere contuſion by a cannon ſhot, which broke his leg. This circumſtance ſo diſheartened his men, that they fell back in diſorder, and increaſed the confuſion in the centre of his line.

A ſtrong detachment of the enemy, who were ſtationed in Mr. Thomas's rear, prevented his receiving any ſupport from the troops oppoſed to them, and he could only ſpare one battalion to ſupport the centre. This body, however, conducted themſelves with ſo much gallantry, that could Mr. Thomas have afforded the additional aid of one hundred reſolute men, they might have advanced, and would in all probability have decided the fate of the day.

Night approaching, and his people being fatigued with the ſevere ſervice they had undergone, deſerted their colours, and took ſhelter in the neighbouring ravines.

Mr. Thomas exerted every effort to rally them, but without effect. In this exigency he called in a body of Rohillas, who had been ſtationed in an adjoining village, for the protection of the baggage; and to ſtimulate their exertions to a renewal of the attack, proffered, but in vain, a large increaſe of pay.

Both armies now drew off, and during the night lay on their arms; and the next morning, after a ſhort and but diſtant cannonade, the enemy left Mr. Thomas maſter of the field of battle.

In this action, the enemy loſt two thouſand men, and thirty pieces of artillery. Mr. Thomas's loſs was ſeven hundred men, and twenty pieces of cannon rendered unfit for further ſervice. The cauſe of this loſs in artillery was occaſioned partly by his cannon being diſmounted by the enemy's ſhot, and partly by the breaking of their axle-trees, as the carriages of the guns, inſtead of recoiling as uſual after the diſcharge, from the nature of the ſoil, being a deep and heavy ſand, ſtopt ſhort and broke.

A few days after this action, the gallant Mr. Hopkins died of his wounds. The death of this young man was a great loſs to Mr. Thomas's intereſts; and the firmneſs of his behaviour during the whole of his ſervice, as well as the manly reſignation which he exhibited at the cloſe of life, ſtamps his character as an amiable man, a brave and gallant ſoldier.*

The enemy were daily reinforced by conſiderable numbers; among the firſt of whom were the troops under Bappoo Scindiah. Goordut Sing, Bunga Sing, Jonde Sing, and ſeveral other Seik chieftains, added their forces on the preſent occaſion, Runjeet Sing, alſo ruler of Burtpoor, the Hattraſs Rajah, Ramdeen of

* To do juſtice to the memory of my friend, I cannot, on this occaſion, forbear to mention, that after the death of the gallant youth, Mr. Thomas, with a liberality of ſpirit which reflects the highest credit on his character, ſent the young man's diſconſolate ſiſter (then become an orphan by her father's death) a preſent of two thouſand rupees; with a promiſe if that ſum was not thought ſufficient to ſupply her wants, to extend his benevolence, though out of the remains of a ruined fortune of his own.

Katheler, and the troops of Rajah Ramdial, and Neen Sing, from the northern parts of the Dooab, completed this formidable aggregate.

Thirty thouſand men, and a train of one hundred and ten pieces of artillery, had now ſurrounded Mr. Thomas on all ſides: they ſo much overawed the neighbouring peaſantry, that they not only immediately ſubmitted, but diſcontinued their uſual ſupplies of proviſions for his camp, by which means his difficulties were ſo ſeverely augmented, that all he could hope for, was an immediate attack on his camp, thereby to afford him an opportunity of evincing the bravery of his ſmall force, by a vigorous and deciſive encounter.

But being too weak to draw out his force in the open field, he was compelled to remain within his lines, and fortify the camp in the beſt poſſible manner, by drawing round it a hedge of the ſame kind of thorn-trees he had made uſe of when under ſimilar embarraſſment in the Jypoor dominions.

Having provided for the ſecurity of his camp,

and poſſeſſing a ſtock of proviſions ſufficient for a month's conſumption, he determined to remain in his preſent poſition until aſſiſtance could arrive from Luckwah, who, on the commencement of hoſtilities, had given him aſſurances of coming to his ſupport.

On the right of his encampment, a diviſion of Mr. Perron's force had thrown up ſome entrenched works; but Mr. Thomas, by a briſk fire from his guns, quickly compelled them to abandon it, which, favoured by the darkneſs of the night, they accompliſhed.

Skirmiſhes between the armies daily took place, in which the troops of Mr. Thomas, though much inferior in point of numbers, had manifeſtly the advantage.

The enemy's cavalry conſtantly hovered round his camp to annoy his foraging parties, and prevent ſupplies of proviſions from getting in. Though inferior to the enemy in point of numbers, Mr. Thomas's cavalry, from active and conſtant ſervice, had a decided advantage; and ſo very alert were his people, that two of

the principal commanders of the enemy narrowly eſcaped being made priſoners in an attempt to ſurpriſe his camp.

Warned at length by experience that nothing was to be gained by theſe deſultory attacks, and that Mr. Thomas ſtrenuouſly perſevered in his ſyſtem of keeping cloſe within his lines, they endeavoured to effect by corrupt and treacherous means, what they had vainly hoped to accompliſh by open and manly warfare.

It muſt here be remarked, that the families of ſeveral of Mr. Thomas's officers reſided within Mr. Perron's diſtricts. He, in order to avail himſelf of their dependant ſituation, and accelerate Mr. Thomas's ruin, had, at the commencement of hoſtilities, placed a guard over their reſpective houſes. Among the principal were the families of Shah Tab Khawn and Khirrate Khawn, the former a collector of Mr. Thomas's revenue, and the latter the commandant of his firſt matchlock regiment.

Theſe men, who had been at firſt confined

by Mr. Perron, were afterwards liberated and ſent for by him to the fort of Coel, his place of reſidence.

He there, by preſent bribes and ſtill larger promiſes of reward in future, perſuaded them to join in effecting the ruin of their principal. The ungrateful men, although they had on various occaſions experienced the greateſt proofs of kindneſs and benevolence from Mr. Thomas, and whom he had raiſed from low ſituations in his army to authority and command, ſcrupled not to deſert him in the hour of his diſtreſs, and to join with his enemies in haſtening his downfal.

Their opportunities to effect this were too favourable. Shah Tab Khan, who commanded in the fort of George Ghur, had cauſed ſome ſtacks of hay within the fort, which formed the chief ſupport of his cattle, to be treacherouſly ſet on fire. The ſmall ſupply of grain alſo, which now conſtituted the ſupport of the garriſon, was privately made away with by means equally nefarious.

Not content with the effect already produced on the minds of Mr. Thomas's people by circumſtances ſo untoward, theſe perfidious men were conſtantly inſtilling into the minds of the troops the perilouſneſs of their ſituation, and apparent impoſſibility of ever extricating themſelves, except by ſubmiſſion to the enemy and uniting with them. Of theſe treacherous deſigns Mr. Thomas was not informed until it was too late to fruſtrate their effect by any exertions on his part. Luckwah, whom he impatiently expected, did not arrive; and other chiefs who had promiſed their aſſiſtance, not only withheld it, but actually joined his enemies. About this time, likewiſe, Colonel Heſſing, the commandant of Agra, arrived, and added himſelf to the number of Mr. Thomas's foes.

Several of his officers, whoſe habitations were in Mr. Perron's diſtricts, deſerted from his camp. His cattle were either killed or diſabled, his grain had failed, and his ammunition fell ſhort. With the utmoſt exertion he was ſcarcely able to procure grain by detaching parties ſecretly at night, who brought

him in a ſcanty ſupply in the morning, though not without frequent diminution of his ſmall force in cavalry.

In this diſtreſs Mr. Thomas had no reſource but either to attack the enemy by night, to ſally forth and try the event of a conteſt in the day, or, attended by his cavalry, to attempt his retreat, leaving the infantry to make the beſt terms they could with the enemy.

After mature deliberation, he reſolved to attack the enemy, and force his way to Hanſi, which if he could reach in ſafety, he hoped to be able to continue his reſiſtance with effect, until aſſiſtance ſhould arrive from Luckwah.

He accordingly gave the neceſſary directions for carrying this reſolution into effect: but his people, ſuſpecting his intention of returning to Hanſi, now began to pack up their baggage and openly to deſert the camp.

On receiving intimation of this deſign, Mr. Thomas aſſembled the officers, and enquired of them the cauſe of this commotion. He was

informed that no reliance could be placed on the ſoldiers, who, diſheartened at their ſituation and the diſtreſs they daily endured, would no longer remain with their colours.

To quiet their apprehenſions, and reſtore confidence with regard to his ſuppoſed march to Hanſi, Mr. Thomas himſelf remained within the lines; and to encourage the drooping ſpirit of his people gave orders for an attack to be made on one of the enemy's advanced poſts, which from its ſituation appeared eaſy to be taken.

At this moment a difficulty aroſe regarding the bullock-drivers, who had deſerted the camp. Some ſepoys however, encouraged by the promiſe of liberal reward, undertook the office, and a ſelect detachment quitted the camp.

But whether from being infected with the general depreſſion of ſpirits that prevailed throughout the troops, or that they were really unfit for the occupation, the ſepoys conducted themſelves in ſo aukward a manner, and made ſo little exertion in getting on the guns, that

Mr. Thomas thought it more prudent to recal the detachment altogether, and it accordingly returned to camp.

Shortly after his hircarrahs brought information that the enemy, having been appriſed of his intention to force his way to Hanſi, had got their line under arms ready to oppoſe his progreſs; and which, if he had attempted it in the preſent diſcontented ſtate of his troops, would in all probability have terminated in his diſgrace.

Deſtitute of forage, in want of ammunition, there being no poſſibility of any ſupply arriving from without, his ſoldiers daily deſerting, and the few who remained even refuſing to fight, except in the actual defence of the camp, in this ſituation Mr. Thomas aſſembled a council of his officers, who, on his ſubmitting to them the circumſtances, gave it as their unanimous opinion, that there was nothing to be done but by an unconditional ſurrender to the enemy.

Mr. Thomas endeavoured to perſuade them that a retreat to Hanſi was ſtill practicable;

but his exertions were ineffectual, and a diſmal aſpect preſented itſelf on all ſides.

For the laſt three days no grain had been ſerved out in the garriſon; but as many of the ſoldiers had been provident in times of plenty to ſave from their reſpective allowances, there exiſted no real want of that article in the camp, and ſalt and ſugar were ſtill to be had in great abundance. A ſmall quantity of wheat ſtill remained, which Mr. Thomas humanely appropriated to the uſe of the ſick and wounded. The ſcarcity of proviſions operated more ſeverely upon the Hindoo than the Mooſſulman ſoldiers, as the latter could ſubſiſt upon the cattle that were daily deſtroyed by the enemy's ſhot.

A body of Rohillas, who were ſtationed in the poſts that commanded the water uſed for the ſupply of the camp, ſuddenly went over to the enemy. Mr. Thomas inſtantly appointed others to guard the poſts thus abandoned; but to his ſorrow ſoon found that the ſpirit of deſertion had ſeized on the Mooſſulman troops in general, the cavalry alone excepted. At

ſeven o'clock in the evening information was brought that the whole of the troops ſtationed at the out-poſts of the camp had deſerted; that the enemy were making preparations for a general aſſault; and at the inſtant of receiving this intelligence, Mr. Thomas had the additional mortification to perceive the laſt ſtack of his hay in flames by the incendiaries. This, as it afterwards appeared, was a preconcerted ſignal between the enemy and the traitors in his own camp.

Diſtreſſed at this intelligence, Mr. Thomas demanded of the perſon who informed him wherefore he had ſo long delayed the communication; but received in reply only a vague and unſatisfactory excuſe. The ſcene of treachery now began to diſcloſe itſelf.

Shortly after Mr. Thomas's hircarrahs brought word that Shah Tab Khan, who commanded George Ghur, had already mounted his horſe, attended by his people and all their effects, and was preparing to leave the fort, being at that inſtant in conference with a party of the enemy, who had approached the walls with a

determination to eſcort the traitor to their own camp.

His eſcape was eaſily effected, Mr. Thomas being in no condition to puniſh him; and on his departure, a party from camp was ordered to take poſſeſſion of the fort; but by the deſertion of Shah Tab Khan the face of affairs was altered conſiderably for the worſe. The matchlock men were now deſerting the camp in crowds and in all directions; a few of the officers of the whole regiment being the only perſons who remained.

Mr. Thomas's ſole reliance was now on the attachment of the regiment which had been commanded by the gallant but unfortunate Mr. Hopkins, at the commencement of the campaign. It was ſeven hundred ſtrong; but during the late ſevere ſervice had been reduced to one third of the original number. "Theſe "(ſays Mr. Thomas, in the bitterneſs of his "anguiſh, occaſioned by ſo many deſertions) "were the only men that ſtood true to my "intereſts."

But even with this force, though comparatively ſo inſignificant, had there been proviſions and forage in the place, he might ſtill have defended the fort of George Ghur; but excepting the ſmall portion allotted for the ſuſtenance of the ſick and wounded men, not a ſeer of rice or grain could be procured; to complete their diſtreſs, the enemy, perceiving their forlorn ſituation, prepared to advance and overwhelm them with numbers; nothing now remained for Mr. Thomas but to attempt a retreat, and, if poſſible, carry into effect his former determination of throwing himſelf into Hanſi.

Agreeably to this determination, having ordered the cavalry to hold themſelves in readineſs, he about nine o'clock in the evening quitted his camp.

Not long after, he fell in with a party of the enemy, who attacked him with vigour: his men, diſheartened by the late events, having loſt their accuſtomed ſpirit, gave way on all ſides, and he was compelled with a few followers to fly for his life.

The enemy continuing the purſuit, he was compelled to make a circuitous route in order to avoid falling in with ſtraggling parties, by which means, though Hanſi was not more than forty coſs from George Ghur, he was compelled to travel nearly double that diſtance.*

Arrived at length in ſafety at Hanſi, Mr. Thomas's firſt care was directed to its defence.†

* In this retreat Mr. Thomas rode a favourite Persian horse of a very superior breed and the highest spirit. On this generous animal, without allowing any intermission on the road, he performed a journey of one hundred and twenty miles within twenty-four hours. This horse, which Mr. Thomas brought with him down the country, is now in the possession of Sir Frederick Hamilton, Bart. of Benares.

† Hansi, according to the Ayeen Akberi, is included in the Soobah of Delhi. Speaking of the rivers contained within this Soobah, the author of the Ayeen Akberi observes, "There are also many lesser streams, and amongst "them the Kenkkar, vulg. (Cuggur). Hansi is an ancient "city, where reposes Sheik Jumal, successor of Sheik Fe- "reed Shuker Gunj (of whom we have spoken in our de- "tail of the Battee country). The city of Hissar was "founded by Sultaun Ferose, who dug a canal which

Warned by paſt experience of the treacherous diſpoſition of the Mooſſulmans, he committed the charge of the fort and city to his faithful Rajepoots, whom on all occaſions, and in the moſt trying ſituations, he had ever found worthy his confidence.

He was not miſtaken in his conjectures, as daily inſtances occurred during the ſiege of the inconſtancy and treachery of the others.

Two pieces of artillery were all that remained in the fort fit for ſervice. The dilatory march of the enemy to inveſt the town afforded Mr. Thomas ſufficient time to caſt and mount eight additional cannon. The enemy advancing by eaſy ſtages poſſeſſed themſelves of the wells in the neighbourhood of Hanſi, and at length commenced the ſiege.

" brings the water of the Jumna near this city. This ca-
" nal passes the town of Sersah. Hissar has very few ri-
" vers, and in order to make wells, the inhabitants are
" obliged to dig to a great depth."—See Mr. Gladwin's Translation of the Ayeen Akberi, Calcutta edition—article Delhi, vol. ii.

The Rajepoots who ſtill adhered to Mr. Thomas, by this time reduced in their numbers to three hundred men, were ſtationed within the fort; the remainder of his force, conſiſting of about nine hundred men, were diſtributed for the defence of the city and the out-poſts. Aware of his very critical ſituation, Mr. Thomas himſelf remained within the fort, taking care to keep a ſtrict guard during the night.

The troops deſtined for the ſecurity of the out-poſts had ſcarcely occupied their reſpective ſtations, when, in a manner moſt daſtardly and treacherous, they delivered them over to the enemy; and the fort and city were thus left to be defended by a handful of men.

This even was rendered impracticable by the treachery of ſome Rohillas, who invited the enemy to advance to the attack. The aſſault was accordingly made: on the entrance of the enemy into the town, a deſperate conflict was maintained on either ſide, Mr. Thomas's remaining troops fighting with the moſt determined valour: three different times the enemy were repulſed with loſs, but numbers at

length prevailing, Mr. Thomas could no longer perſuade his men to continue the conflict; he was therefore reluctantly compelled to take ſhelter within the fort, and abandon the town, of which the enemy took immediate poſſeſſion.

Of his whole force, ſeven hundred men now only remained. The enemy having erected their batteries, commenced the ſiege of the fort, which, notwithſtanding its ſiege and the ſmall garriſon which it contained, had there been a ſufficiency of proviſions, could ſtill have made a ſucceſsful reſiſtance; but proviſions were ſcarce, the Mahomedan troops were clamorous for their pay, and receiving no ſatisfactory anſwer on this head, they made offers to Mr. Perron of joining his army on condition of payment of their arrears, and an advance of money as a reward for their treachery.

Mr. Perron would readily have agreed to this propoſal, had he not conceived Mr. Thomas could ſtill defend the place with his remaining Rajepoots, in which caſe he might loſe many of his own men; he accordingly

made Mr. Thomas acquainted with the treachery that was carrying on within the garriſon, and adviſed him to be upon his guard.

"Conſidering, therefore, (concludes Mr. "Thomas) that I had entirely loſt my party, "and with it the hopes of at preſent ſubduing "my enemies, the Seiks and the powers in "the French intereſts; that I had no expec-"tation of ſuccour from any quarter, Luck-"wah having gone to Joudpore; that if hoſti-"lities continued, my reſource in money would "have failed; in this ſituation, I agreed to "evacuate the fort; and the neceſſary arrange-"ments being completed, I ſtipulated for a "battalion of ſepoys to eſcort me to the Eng-"liſh frontier, where I arrived in the middle "of January, 1802.

DEATH AND CHARACTER

OF

GEORGE THOMAS.

NOT long after his arrival on the Britiſh frontier, Mr. Thomas inſpected his affairs; and on collecting the wreck of his fortune, acquired with ſo much toil and labour, he found himſelf poſſeſſed of a ſum not more than ſufficient to procure the comforts of life in his native country; with this he determined to retire from public life to the enjoyment of domeſtic eaſe and quiet; and with this intention was proceeding to Calcutta, when death arreſted his progreſs, near the military cantonments of Berhampoor, on the 22d of Auguſt, 1802. He was interred in the burying-ground of that place, and a monument is now erecting to his memory.

George Thomas was a native of Tipperary, in Ireland, about forty-ſix years of age, tall in

his perſon (being upwards of ſix feet in height) and of a proportionate ſtrength of body; his countenance was bold and erect; but from the conſtant and active uſe of his limbs, during his long and arduous warfare, he had contracted an elevation of the head which gave him the appearance of ſtiffneſs; though in conſequence of this elevation his look was more martial, and indicative of the intrepidity of ſpirit which reigned within, and which wholly poſſeſſed his mind to the laſt hour of his life.

Mr. Thomas appeared formed by nature to execute the boldeſt deſigns; and though uncultivated* by education, he poſſeſſed a native and

* On his first arrival at Benares, after having obligingly promised his Excellency the Marquis Welleſley to afford every information within his power of the state of the western countries, Mr. Thomas proposed to the compiler of these memoirs to deliver his information in the Persian language; adding, that from constant use it was become more familiar to him than his native tongue. This offer, for obvious reasons, was declined; but it proves Mr. Thomas's capacity, under every disadvantage arising from a want of regular education; and I have no hesitation in declaring my opinion, that if Mr. Thomas had found leisure to cultivate his mind, his progress in the most useful

inherent vigour of mind, which qualified him for the performance of great actions, and placed him on a level with diſtinguiſhed officers of the preſent day.

That he poſſeſſed ſuperior military talents has, we truſt, been evinced by the relation of the tranſactions in the preceding pages; and in reviewing his conduct, during a long and multifarious warfare, a more competent eſtimate may perhaps be formed of his abilities, if we reflect on the nature and extent of one of his plans, which he detailed to the compiler of theſe memoirs during his reſidence at Benares. When fixed in his reſidence at Hanſi, he firſt conceived, and would, if unforeſeen and untoward circumſtances had not occurred, have executed the bold deſign of extending his conqueſts to the mouths of the Indus. This was to have been effected by a fleet of boats, conſtructed from timber procured in the foreſts near the city of Feroſepoor, on the banks of the Sutledge river, of

branches of literature would have been ſurprisingly rapid. He ſpoke, wrote, and read the Hindoostany and Perſian languages with uncommon fluency and preciſion.

proceeding down that river with his army, and ſettling the countries he might ſubdue on his route: a daring enterpriſe, and conceived in the true ſpirit of an ancient Roman. On the concluſion of this deſign it was his intention to turn his arms againſt the Punjaub, which he expected to reduce in the courſe of a couple of years; and which, conſidering the wealth he would then have acquired, and the amazing reſources he would have poſſeſſed, theſe ſucceſſes combined would doubtleſs have contributed to eſtabliſh his authority on a firm and ſolid baſis.

Apprehenſive, however, of the ultimate ſucceſs of his arms, when he conſidered the number and ſtrength of his enemies, Mr. Thomas, about the time he was occupied in the contemplation of the aforementioned plan, made an offer* of his ſervice to the Britiſh government; which, though circumſtances of political conſideration might not have inclined govern-

* Correspondence with Captain H. V. White, to whom the compiler begs leave to offer his kindest acknowledgments for several interesting anecdotes in the latter part of Mr. Thomas's career.

ment to adopt, is nevertheleſs ſufficient to preſent a correct idea of the enterpriſing ſpirit of the man. Having offered to advance and take poſſeſſion of the Punjaub, and give up his army to the direction and control of the Engliſh; to take the country, and, in ſhort, to become an active partiſan in their cauſe: he thus, in a patriotic and truly loyal ſtrain, concludes his remarks on the intereſting ſubject: "* By this "plan," ſays he, "I have nothing in view but "the welfare of my king and country. It could "not be concerted ſoon enough to be of any "uſe in the approaching conflict; (his diſpute "with the Mahrattas); therefore it is not to "better myſelf that I have thought of it; I "ſhall be ſorry to ſee my conqueſts fall to the "Mahrattas, I wiſh to give them to my king, "and to ſerve him the remainder of my days; "and this I can only do as a ſoldier in this part "of the world."

His knowledge of the ſpirit and character of the different tribes and nations that compoſe the interior of the vaſt peninſula of India,

* Captain White's correspondence.

was various, extenſive, and correct; and no man perhaps ever more thoroughly ſtudied, or more properly appreciated, the Indian character at large. In his manners he was gentle and inoffenſive, and poſſeſſed a natural politeneſs, and evinced a diſpoſition to pleaſe ſuperior to moſt men. He was, as we have already ſeen, equally a loyal ſubject to his king, as a real and ſincere well wiſher to the proſperity and permanence of the Britiſh empire in the eaſt. He was open, generous, charitable, and humane; and his behaviour towards the families of thoſe perſons who fell in his ſervice, evinces a benevolence of heart, and a philanthropy of ſpirit, highly honourable to his character.

But with theſe good qualities, the impartiality of hiſtory demands that we ſhould ſtate his errors, and endeavour to diſcover ſome ſhades in a character otherwiſe ſplendid. A quickneſs of temper, liable to frequent agitations, and the ebullitions of haſty wrath, not unfrequently rendered his appearance ferocious; yet this only occurred in inſtances where

the conviviality of his temper obſcured his reaſon; and for this, on conviction, no man was ever readier to make every acknowledgment and reparation in his power.

Perfect correctneſs of conduct cannot be expected from a character like the one now under conſideration, as a ſecluſion from civilized life, and long abſence from the exerciſe of thoſe duties which conſtitute the chief enjoyment of ſocial happineſs, muſt neceſſarily have tinctured the manners of the man with ſome portion of the ſpirit of the barbarians with whom he was ſo long an inmate.

Upon the whole, however, we may be juſtified in remarking, that on a review of the life and actions of this very extraordinary man, it is difficult which moſt to admire, whether the intrepidity of ſpirit by which he was incited to the performance of actions which, by their effect, raiſed him from the condition of a private ſubject to rank and diſtinction among princes; or the wonderful and uncommon attachment generally exhibited towards his per-

ſon and intereſts, by natives of every deſcription, who fought and conquered with him in his long and arduous career, and whoſe aſſiſtance exalted him for a time to a height of reſpectability and conſequence that ſeldom falls to the lot of an individual.

FINIS.

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2. Prospectus.

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4. General abstract of the countries to the north-west of Delhi, with their relative distances from that city in British miles.

APPENDIX I.

Of the Trade in general carried on in the Countries to the North-Weſt of Delhi.

I. PUNJAUB.

AN open trade with this country from every part of Hindooſtan has long ſince ceaſed; but petty merchants, by applying for paſſports from the reſpective chiefs of the Seik territories, previous to entering their boundaries, are generally ſupplied with them, and by this means ſtill continue a trifling commercial intercourſe.

Their exports to the countries weſt of the Attock, conſiſt of ſugar, rice, indigo, wheat, and white cloth. Their imports from thoſe countries are ſwords, horſes, fruit, lead, and ſpices. Their exports to Caſhmere may be

conſidered nearly the ſame as into Perſia; their imports from Caſhmere are ſhawls, and a variety of cloths, ſaffron, and fruit.

With the inhabitants of the mountains they exchange cloth, matchlocks, and horſes, for iron, and other inferior commodities. From the Deckan are imported ſulphur, indigo, ſalt, lead, iron, Europe coarſe cloth, and ſpices: their exports are horſes, camels, ſugar, rice, white cloth, matchlocks, ſwords, and bows and arrows.

This trade is not carried on by any particular route, but depends on the character of the chiefs of thoſe diſtricts through which they paſs. The moſt conſiderable part of the trade is, however, carried on from Amrut Seer, by way of Machaywara, to Duttyala; ſouthward by way of Hanſi, Rauge Ghur, and Oreecha, into the weſtern part of the Rajepoot country by way of Kythul Jeind, and Dadery, and finally by Karnaul towards Delhi and the Ganges.

II. BATTIES.

The exports of the Batties, conſiſt of horſes, camels, bullocks, buffaloes, and ghee; their imports are coarſe white cloth, ſugar, and ſalt; but the trade is very inconſiderable, and is carried on by petty merchants of Bahadra, Noher, and other towns, through the means of the diſciples of Shiekh Fereed. The Hiſar, or Harriana diſtricts import matchlocks, ſwords, coarſe white cloth, ſalt, ſugar, a ſmall quantity of rice, wheat, and ſpices, their exports are horſes, camels, bullocks, and ghee.

III. BEYKANEER.

Beykaneer imports coarſe and fine rice, ſugar, opium, and indigo. The former articles they import from the Punjaub and by Rauge Ghur and Churoo; ſalt they get from Samber, and wheat from the Jypoor country; ſpices, copper, and coarſe cloth, from Jeſſelmere. They have no exports but cattle, and thoſe are of an inferior breed.

IV. JOUDPOOR.

The country of Joudpoor imports iron, copper, cloth of different ſorts, red and yellow broad cloth, rice, opium, ſugar, and ſpices. The copper and broad cloth are brought from Surat, from Tatta on the Indus, and from the Jypoor and Mewar countries.

Rice, ſugar, and wheat from Mewar, Goorwara, and the ſouthern parts of their own country.

Their exports are horſes, bullocks, and camels, of ſuperior ſize, which are in great requeſt in various parts of India; ſalt likewiſe from the Sambre lake, and other places in its vicinity, is exported to the Punjaub to the eaſt and to the ſouth.

The trade to this country from Surat, paſſes chiefly through Gujerath and Ahumdabad; from Tatta through the Sindy country and Jeſſelmere, and to the Deckan, by Mewar and Kota.

The town of Pawley is the greateſt mart in this part of Rajepootana; for there the merchants exchange the commodities of Europe, Perſia, and Deckan, for thoſe of Caſhmere, Punjaub, and Hindooſtan.

The trade in moſt parts of the Rajepoot country is carried on by camels or bullocks; this is unavoidable, the ſandineſs of the ſoil rendering it almoſt impaſſable to carriages.

V. KOTA AND BOONDY.

The produce of Mewar, Kota, and Boondy, the eaſtern parts of the dominions of Jypoor, and the diſtricts poſſeſſed by the rajah of Karoolee, may be mentioned under the following heads: horſes, camels, and other cattle, but inferior to thoſe produced in the more weſtern countries; matchlocks, ſwords, cloth of a coarſe manufacture, wheat, rice, ſugar, chuna, barley, and all other Indian grain; and though about fourteen or fifteen coſs north of the city of Oudipoor ſulphur is produced, it is inferior to that which comes from Surat.

From the abundant production of thoſe countries, a perſon would naturally think the inhabitants were in want of few importations; but they are extravagant in their mode of living, and fond of foreign luxuries.

Their imports and exports correſpond with thoſe of Jypoor; European and Perſian articles come by the channels of Gujerath, Jeſelmere, and Pawlee. From the Deckan, by way of Bapaul Soronge, Udjeen, and Endore, to Kota and Beelwara, in the Mewar diſtrict.

The Ghoſſeins of Nathdorah, a place twelve coſs north from the city of Oudipoor, carry on a conſiderable trade with the provinces of Gujerath, and Tatta, and with Rajepootana, Punjaub, and Hindooſtan.

This trade conſiſts of pearls, precious ſtones, arms, ſhawls, cloth of every ſort, and in ſhort the production of all nations that trade to India. Kota being in a central poſition, and the rajah a man of good character, is a place

of great trade, and ſerves as a general depoſit for merchandize.

VI. JYPOOR.

The Jypoor country producing in itſelf almoſt every neceſſary article, does not ſtand in ſuch real want of foreign commodities. The rajah is in part poſſeſſor of Samber, which produces plenty of ſalt, as likewiſe do the diſtricts of Senganah and Berath. To theſe may be added copper, mines, alum, blue ſtone, and verdigriſe. There are likewiſe in moſt parts of Jypoor good cattle, though not in quality equal to thoſe of Joudpoor.

In all parts of the Jypoor dominions are manufactories of cloth, of ſwords, and of match-locks.

Its imports are, fine cloths, the tiſſue manufactures of Benares, and ſhawls from Caſhmere. From Guzzerath and Tatta are ſupplied opium, lead, and ſheet copper; horſes

and fruits from Perſia were formerly introduced by the route of Beykaneer, but at preſent the Karwans paſs through Jeſelmere, and Joudpoor. The court of Jypoor being ſplendid and luxurious, ſo is the conſumption of the productions of other countries conſiderable. This encourages trade, and leads to an intercourſe with all parts of India.

APPENDIX II.

THE following proſpectus, drawn up about eleven years ago, when the compiler of theſe memoirs was employed on a ſurvey order d by government through the Doab and the countries adjacent, will exhibit to the reader the outlines of a plan, the greater part of which is now, by God's bleſſing, happily accomplished.

It is here, therefore, that he wiſhes to pay the tribute ſo deſervedly due to the memory of that illustrious luminary, the father of oriental literature, his honoured and revered friend, Sir William Jones, whoſe kind encouragement firſt inſpired the compiler with an ardour for eaſtern literature, and whoſe bright example and uncommon acquirements in every branch of polite learning, muſt ever prove the beſt and ſtrongeſt incentive to the exertions of Britiſh youth.

PROSPECTUS.

Having been appointed in 1792 to accompany an eſcort ordered to attend captain Reynolds, of the Bombay eſtabliſhment, on a ſurvey through the Dooab and the adjoining countries, it appears to me, that in the courſe of this expedition, much information may be gained on ſubjects not hitherto ſufficiently inveſtigated and developed; what I conceive to be moſt uſeful in the reſearches above alluded to, may be reduced under the following heads:

1ſt. The natural productions of the Dooab, with its commercial advantages, and a comparative view of its former and preſent revenues, with as accurate a calculation of its inhabitants as can be procured.

2nd. The places of note, and the monuments of Mahomedan grandeur ſince the conqueſt of the Moguls.

3d. An account of Calpee and Etyah, and of the improvements that may be made in the inland commerce with the neighbouring countries.

4th. The cities of Agra and Delhi, and their environs, notwithſtanding their preſent ruinous ſtate, will nevertheleſs yield materials for many intereſting remarks. The hiſtory of the revolutions at Delhi, and the unfortunate cataſtrophe of the preſent deſcendant of Timoor, would, I am perſuaded, be intereſting to my countrymen at home, and great and accurate information on this ſubject may be gained by perſonal converſation with ſeveral of the actors in this revolution, who are now living at Delhi.*

5th. The celebrated city of Mathura, and the plains of Bindrabund, preſent a field for the inveſtigation of the ancient government of the Hindoos; for, on this ſpot, conſecrated for ages by the ſuperſtition of their anceſtors, we may hope to find thoſe primitive manners

* See the History of Shah Aulum, and present work.

and cuſtoms deſcribed in their Sanſcrit manuſcripts; and their religious opinions being cloſely connected with their civil ordinations, we may be able to form a more correct idea of the ſpirit of their ancient government.

6th. On the ſouth and ſouth-weſt of the Jumna, the provinces of Boondeelcund, and Gohud, which have lately been reduced by the Mahratta government, with reſpect to their ſituation towards the Vizier's frontier, are objects of conſequence to the Britiſh nation, and demand an attentive inveſtigation.

7th. From the late ſucceſſes attendant on Scindiah's arms, we muſt naturally conclude it has been owing in a great degree to the attention he has paid to the internal diſcipline and economy of his military ſyſtem; it is therefore my intention to obtain as correct information as I can of the ſtate of the Marhatta armies, together with an account of the Mahratta government.*

* The late maha-rajah Madajee Scindiah.

THE SEIKS.

8th. This nation, ſo obſcure as hardly to be mentioned even as a tribe, at the beginning of the preſent century, have, within theſe laſt thirty years, raiſed themſelves in ſuch reputation as not only to attract the notice, but excite the alarm of their neighbours on both ſides of their government.

They poſſeſs the whole of the Punjaub, and it is very probable will one day or other have an eye to a participation of the Vizier's provinces. I propoſe, therefore, to obtain every poſſible information of their tribe, manners, cuſtoms, and ſpirit of government, and, ſhould we be able, to penetrate into the Punjaub, to deſcribe the face of that country, and the natural and commercial productions.*

9th. The deſiderata of Major Rennel, which from a peruſal of his moſt excellent memoir I

* See the History of Shah Aulum, and present work.

find to be, firſt, the aſcertaining the exiſtence of one of the grand deſigns of the Emperor Feroze; which was, to have cut a canal from the Sutledge to the Jumna, which would have opened a communication by water from Cabul to Aſſam. Major Rennel obſerves, he takes it for granted this canal was never completed, as no farther intimation has been obtained on that head. The remains * of ſuch a magnificent work, if any ſtill exiſt, muſt doubtleſs be diſcovered by an inſpection on the ſpot.

10th. I have in my poſſeſſion a hiſtory of the celebrated Timoor or Tamerlane, ſaid to be written by himſelf. This work contains the whole of Timoor's expeditions, from an early period of his life until near his death. The Indian expedition in particular is detailed in a very accurate manner.

11th. THE ALTARS OF ALEXANDER.

I have been the more induced to preſent to the public the above proſpectus, as an evidence

* See the 14th chapter of the present work.

that the leiſure allowed to officers in the hours of relaxation from their profeſſional duties, has not altogether been thrown away; and alſo in the entertaining a confident hope that the honeſt purſuit of laudable ſtudies will ever meet with public approbation and ſupport.

APPENDIX III.

General Statement of the Forces of ſeveral of the Natives Princes and States in the weſtern Parts of the Peninſula.

THE preſent force of Dowlut Row Scindiah may be ſtated under the following heads.

1ſt. Cavalry, Marhatta, and Hindooſtany, including the cavalry ſtationed with the different collectors that might be brought to act in a war	20,000
Ambajee's cavalry in the diſtrict of Gualior	4,000
Mr. Perron might muster in Hindooſtan, that is, Delhi, Agrah, Jauts, Bapoo Scindia, and Madhoo Row's cavalry, excluſive of Seiks or Rajepoots	7,000
Entire force of Scindiah's cavalry	31,000

Scindiah's Infantry.

2d. The number of battalions at preſent under the command of Mr. Perron amount to forty; each battalion generally conſiſts of five hundred men, gunners and fighting men of every deſcription included. Each battalion is provided with four field-pieces, a carronade, or howitzer, and ſome pieces of ordnance of large caliber, for the purpoſe of throwing grape.

A brigade conſiſts of eight battalions; it has generally a ſeparate park of ten pieces of artillery attached to it. This park is compoſed of battering guns and ſpare field-pieces.

The ſtrength of each brigade will conſiſt as follows.

Strength in officers and fighting men of every deſcription	—	4,150
Pieces of artillery	—	50
Strength of five brigades		20,750
Pieces of artillery	—	250

The remains of Colonel Feloſe's brigade, ſix battalions, men	3,000
Ordnance — —	60
Five battalions of Col. John Heſſing	2,600
Ordnance — —	30
Ambajee's battalions may be computed at four hundred men each, of which he has ſixteen battalions	6,400
His artillery is not regularly attached to his battalions, and therefore often varies; but, generally ſpeaking, may be computed at four pieces to each battalion — —	64
The battering train likewiſe varies, but may be computed at pieces	20
Total artillery of Ambajee's pieces	84

Begum Somroo.

*Five battalions of about ſix hundred men each — —	3,000
Pieces of artillery —	24
Cavalry — —	150

* I find by this, that the ſtatement of the Begum's force, as given in the History of Shah Aulum, is partly incorrect.

Bapooh Scindiah

Has two battalions —	1,000
Artillery pieces — —	10
Total force of Scindiah in cavalry	31,150
Total force in infantry	38,050
Grand total infantry and cavalry	69,200
Grand total artillery ditto pieces	518

REMARKS BY MR. THOMAS.

* It is proper to obſerve, that Mr. Perron and Ambajee are now levying troops, which may cauſe a material error in this ſtatement a few months hence. Ambajee and Perron are poſſeſſed of artillery excluſive of the above-mentioned; and Scindiah, by the artillery taken from Holkar, is able to add conſiderably to his own part.

Preſent ſtate of Scindiah's infantry. They are the worſt in India; are not commanded by

* This ſtatement was made 1802.

officers of experience, nor well armed, nor cordially attached to the ſervice of their maſter; they are in arrears of pay, and would be defeated by a ſmall force of regular diſciplined troops, with a few pieces of well ſerved artillery.

Mr. Perron's infantry are in appearance the beſt troops belonging to Scindiah: they are under better ſubordination to their officers, and are more regularly paid, armed, clothed, and diſciplined.

The troops of the late Colonel Feloſe and thoſe of Colonel Heſſing, ore equal to thoſe of Mr. Perron.

Thoſe of Begum Somroo are in a ſtate of inſubordination, and mutinous.

Thoſe of Ambajee and Bapoo Scindia do not deſerve the name of troops; they are undiſciplined and ill-armed.

Their artillery is in general bad, and is frequently diſmounted of itſelf in the uſual

courſe of firing in a field of battle. Mr. Thomas relates one inſtance where twenty-five pieces of cannon were rendered unfit for ſervice, eight of which only were ſtruck by the enemy's ſhot.

Force of Ali Behaudur.

Ali Behaudur, the Marhatta chief, who is in poſſeſſion of the open country, as likewiſe ſeveral of the ſtrong holds in Boondeelcund, has four battalions, conſiſting of between five and ſix thouſand infantry, ſix or ſeven thouſand cavalry, with forty or fifty pieces of artillery, all of the very worſt quality. The battalions, each about five hundred ſtrong, are without diſcipline, or military regulation of any kind, and may be conſidered as a rabble.

The infantry conſiſts of Rohillas, Boondeelahs, and Malwa Sebundys, who are armed with matchlocks.

The cavalry conſiſts of Marhatta Mooſſulmans from Cuttair, (Rohilcund) and from the Doo Ab.

The beſt troops in the intereſt of this chief are the cavalry of his aſſociate Himmut Behaudur, the Ghoſſeen; they are in number about two thouſand, and are choſen men.

Himmut Behaudur has likewiſe a body of infantry, amounting to about three thouſand. We may therefore compute the collected force of Ali Behaudur at twenty-one thouſand, chiefly rabble, and incapable, ſays Mr. Thomas, of oppoſing a regular and diſciplined force, though far inferior in point of numbers.

At the head of this rabble, theſe chiefs keep poſſeſſion of a country capable of yielding a revenue of one crore of rupees.

Detail of the force of Ali Behaudur;

four battalions, men —	2,000
Irregular infantry ditto	6,000
Cavalry — —	7,000
Artillery — —	50

Force of Himmut Behaudur.

(In the ſervice of Ali Behaudur.)

Irregular infantry — — —	3,000
Cavalry — — — —	2,000
Artillery pieces — —	20

Combined force of Ali Behaudur and Himmut Behaudur.

Cavalry — —	9,000
Infantry, — —	11,000
To which may be added infantry attached to the guns — —	1,000
Grand total, men	21,000
Pieces of artillery — —	70

Preſent Force of Kaſhi Row Holkar, and Jeſſwunt Row Holkar.

The cavalry of theſe two chiefs may be computed at thirty thouſand, excluſive of the Pindaries or irregular horſe. In this ſtatement, made from information received from writers and ſoldiers in their ſervice, who ſel-

dom fail to add to the number, there may probably be ſome error. But it is certain that Jeſſwunt Row Holkar is actually at the head of a body of cavalry amounting to twenty thouſand men; Kaſhi Row Holkar has from four to five thouſand cavalry at Indore, his capital; to which, if the cavalry of Ameer Khaun, a tributary, be added, as likewiſe that under the different collectors, the number will amount in the aggregate to thirty thouſand. Theſe chiefs occaſionally receive the aid of from ſix to ten thouſand Pindaries, a banditti who lay waſte the countries through which they paſs, by predatory warfare.

Force in Infantry.

Conſiſting of eight battalions computed at four hundred men per battalion, — —	3,200
Artillery men, —	600
Rohillas, — —	10,000
Total infantry	13,800
Artillery pieces —	50

Holkar's cavalry are ſuperior to thoſe of Scindiah, being better officered, and more correſpondent with the real Mahratta cuſtom of predatory warfare.

The infantry (obſerves Mr. Thomas) are very bad. They are ill paid, badly officered, and without ſubordination; undiſciplined, nor can they make uſe of their arms in action.

The Rohillas in Holkar's ſervice are a faithleſs rabble, who will ſtand true only as long as they find it their intereſt; they are always ready to leave or ruin him, if not regularly paid; or when expected to move againſt an enemy of ſuperior force; or if by any means they ſhould have accumulated money.

Detailed Statement of the collected Force of Kaſhi Row Holkar, and Jeſſwunt Row Holkar.

Cavalry, — —	30,000
Pindaries or Looties, mounted on ſmall horſes, — —	10,000
Total cavalry,	40,000

Infantry.

Eight battalions at four hundred men each,	—	—,	3,200
Artillery men, &c.		—	600
Rohillas,	—	—	10,000
		Total infantry,	13,100
Artillery pieces,	—	—	60
		Grand total,	53,800

APPENDIX IV.

A general Abſtract of the Countries, and their Inhabitants in the north-weſt parts of the Peninſula of Hindooſtan; with the Diſtance of the capital Cities from Delhi in Britiſh Miles.

1ſt. THE Punjuab or country of the Seiks, is compoſed of the province of Lahore, and the chukla or diviſion called Sirhind. The inhabitants in general are Seiks, though the cultivators of the ſoil are many of them Jauts.

Force. Cavalry 60,000. Artillery 40 pieces, Infantry 5,000. Revenue 5 crores.

Capital, Lahore, N. W. by N. three hundred miles.

2d. The Hurrianah country is included in the Sirkar of Hiſſar; it is called in the map the Leſſer Baloochiſtaun. The inhabitants are chiefly Jauts, with the exception of a few Rajepoot, and Rungur villages, which laſt appellation is given to ſuch of the Rajepoots who have embraced the Mahomedan religion. Does not Rungur imply coloured, or ſtained, or of mixed blood?

Capital, Hiſſar, W. N. W. one hundred and eight miles.

3d. The country called Tahneſſar conſiſts of the weſtern parts of Tahneſſar, Kernaul, Kythul, Panniput, Sefeedoo, Jeind, Koſohan, and Dehatarut. The inhabitants are chiefly Jauts, though ſome have become Seiks, and a few are Rajepoots, but of a low caſt.

No particular capital.

4th. The Battee country; the chiefs of which are Rajepoot Mooſſulmans; the common people are Jauts who have become Mooſſulmans, and the cultivators of the ſoil are

termed Ryis, and are a peaceable inoffenſive race.

Capital, Batnier, W. N. W. two hundred and nineteen miles.

5th. Beykaneer is governed by Rathore Rajepoots; the cultivators are Jauts.

Force. Cavalry 2,000. Artillery 30 pieces.
Infantry 8,000. Revenue 5 lacks.

Capital, Beykaneer.

6th. The Jypoor country is governed by Rajepoots of the Kutchwa tribe; the cultivators are Jauts, Bremins and Meenas.

Cavalry 30,000. Artillery 40 pieces.
Infantry 10,000. Revenue 60 lacks.

Capital Jypoor or Jynaghur, S. W. one hundred and fifty miles.

7th The Row Rajah is a Rathore Rajepoot;

the cultivators of his country are Jauts Mewattes, and Aheers, a savage tribe, approaching in their manners to the Jauts.

Cavalry	1,500.	Artillery	16 pieces.
Infantry	2,000.	Revenue	6 lacks.

Capital Alwur,* S. W. by S. 90 miles.

* This place, the fort of which is situated on the summit of a high hill, is thus described in a work published some years since by Elias Habesci, but better known to the English reader under the name of Count Gika. "The "emperors had likewise kept Aloor, a country very fertile "in mines, and not at a great distance from Mattra. On "those mountains there is another distinct nation called "Mina, whose most splendid quality is that they excel all "others in stealing, and we are assured that they are the "most dexterous pilferers of India. They are capable of "carrying off a horse or a prisoner from the most vigilant "guard. All these countries produce infinite quantities "of cattle, in which their principal trade consists.

"The richest, most agreeable, and most commodious "place in those parts is the plain or valley of Tannagasi, "two leagues in length and one in breadth, which contains "now seventeen mines that are opened, and as they are "well explored, they may be reckoned to produce a crore "of rupees annually. The province of Aloar is dependant "on Jypoor, or should be. It is in general as fertile in "mines as the other, and is rich; but the little province

6th. Joudpoor, whofe ruler is called the Rhathore Rajah and Marwar Rajah. He is a

" of Tannagasi, which is subject to Aloar, is really the " most substantial part. Tannagasi lies at only four days " small journies from Mattra. The capital and only town " bears the same name. It is pretty large, trades consi- " derably, and is situated at the foot of a mountain, on " which there is a fort, with some pieces of artillery. In " 1780 and 1781, a Frenchman commanding the artillery " of Nadjifkan undermined this garrison; but it surren- " dered before the mine was sprung.

" If the English chose to seize on Aloar and Tannagasi, " their army, which I suppose to be encamped at Mattra, " must march to Deeg in a single day. Proceeding thence " they should leave Aloa ten English miles to the right: " they would find no opposition hitherto. It is only at " Sakmin Ghur that we find a fort, which commands the " plain that leads to a pass on the road to Tannagasi. At " that pass there is another small fort, and both together " could not hold out twenty-four hours against an attack " in form. Tannagasi is the terrestrial paradise of that " country: it is there that decent employment would be " found for two hundred individuals of the English nation; " and, aided by two battalions, they would be enabled to " explore peaceably all its mines, and make them produce " sixty lacks of rupees, clear of all expences, in each year: " but in the case two redoubts should be constructed on " the two banks of the Jumna to protect the passage-boats " for merchandize and minerals, they might send from " Tannagasi, escorted by a company of the battalions that

Rhathore Rajepoot of the pureſt and moſt ancient blood of the Rajepoóts. The cultivators are Jauts.

Cavalry	27,000.	Artillery	30 pieces.
Infantry	3,000.	Revenue	20 lacks.

Capital Joudpoor, S. W. by W. 350 miles.

9th. Karolee, whoſe Rajah is of the tribe of Rajepoot, called Jadoo. The cultivators are Jauts, Bramins, and Meenas.

Cavalry	6,000.	Artillery	12 pieces.
Infantry	2,000.	Revenue	5 lacks.

Capital Karolee, ſouth 140 miles.

10th. The Kiſhen Ghur Rajah is of the tribe of Rhathore Rajepoots. The cultivators are Jauts.

" would be ſtationed there. From Mattra the goods might " pass on to Futty Ghur, or some other place on the " Ganges, to be sent thence to a greater distance. The " navigation of the Jumna as far as Allahabad might be " attempted."——See Objects interesting to the English Nation, vol. ii. page 113 and 114, Calcutta edition, A. D. 1793.

Capital Kiſhen Ghur, S. W. by W. 200 miles.

11th. Oudipoor or Mewar, whoſe ruler is called likewiſe the Ranah of Chittore, from the celebrated fort of that name ſituated within his dominions. Conſult Colonel Dow's Hiſtory of Hindooſtan. This prince is alſo called Urſee Rannah, which was aſſumed by one of his anceſtors, and adopted by his ſucceſſors. He is of the tribe called Seſodiah. The cultivators of Oudipoor are compoſed of Rajepoots, Jauts, Bramins, and Beils.

Cavalry	12,000
Infantry	6,000

Capital Oudipoor, S. W. 350 miles..

12th. The principalities of Kota and Boondee, whoſe chiefs are of the Chohan tribe, and are likewiſe denominated Addah Rajepoots. The cultivators are Rajepoots, Jauts, Bramins, Beels, and other claſſes.

Force. Infantry 2,000

Cavalry	3,000
Artillery	20 pieces.
Revenue	30 lacks.

Capital Kota and Boondee, S. W. 250 miles.

13th. The Burtpoor Rajah is a Jaut, the cultivators are chiefly Jauts.*.

Force, Cavalry	1,000
Infantry	2,000
Artillery	20 pieces.
Revenue	15 lacks.

Capital Burtpoor, fouth 100 miles.

* Of this fingular tribe, the ingenious author of Objects interesting to the English Nation thus remarks:—"The "Jattes derive their origin from a fingle head of a family, "whose name was Ram-gee; he had thirty-four children, "who gave him many grand-children, who all respected "him as their father and prince. The eldest of the fa- "mily in direct line has always been acknowledged as "Ram-gee himself; they were cultivators; thence their "attachment to agriculture. They remained in obscurity "until the fall of the Mogul empire; they have seized on "Agra, and extended their power as far as Siren, on the "road to Lahore. Their chiefs resided at Agra with the "title of Rajah's; the first of them that acquired repu- "tation was named Jonas Sing; his successor's name was

" Creten Sing, and that of the last chief was Naval Sing. " Since this nation has been defeated by Nadjuf Khan, " it has fallen into contempt and oblivion; for they " have loſt their conquests, and are now confined " to Burtpoor, which is the capital of their little " country; but it is very strong, its ditches are of a " breadth more than is usual elsewhere, they are fifty-six " feet deep, and are always filled with water that comes " from a perennial spring. Their present chief, who now " retains the title of Rajah, is called Rengit Sing, who is " at the same time the chief of their religion, which is that " of the Hindoos."——See Objects interesting to the English Nation, vol. ii. p. 120 and 121.

CONCLUSION.

IN the force above detailed, a ſtatement of the militia of the country is not included; their numbers are conſiderable, and they in fact conſtitute the chief ſupport of their reſpective ſtates.

Under the head revenue, that which is paid into the treaſury of each prince is here deſignated; the revenue ariſing from lands granted to the different chiefs in Jaiedad, is not included in any ſtate, excepting in the Punjaub, as more fully explained in our account of that country.

By the artillery here mentioned, is only meant what is capable of being brought into the field, few of which are in good order; ſome of the chiefs have a numerous artillery in their

forts, to which however they pay but little attention.

Conſidering the ſurpriſing fertility of ſoil, the abundance of all things neceſſary for the ſupport of the inhabitants, and the internal riches of theſe countries, and their capability of improvement, as well in regard to commercial as political relations, it is matter of no ſmall ſurpriſe to think they ſhould for ſo long a time have remained almoſt unknown to the British nation in India; and that, after being ſovereigns of ſo conſiderable a part of this extenſive empire, we ſhould now, for the firſt time, receive information, that the faireſt part of the country is yet unknown to us.

This however is the fact, and it would appear that Great Britain might derive conſiderable advantages from a cloſer alliance and more intimate acquaintance with the countries in the interior parts of India; and more eſpecially with the Rajepoot ſtates. Theſe countries, as well from the advantages of natural ſituation as from their immenſe internal

reſources, would be able to form the ſtrongeſt barrier againſt the entrance of our political rivals, the French, to the central parts of the peninſula, whenever a renewal of hoſtilities may induce the attempt.

POSTSCRIPT.

The compiler of theſe Memoirs has particular pleaſure in delivering to his readers a letter lately received from an Officer of rank in the ſervice of Scindiah, reſpecting Mr. Thomas's character, and which comes in a manner more peculiarly appropriate, as being the genuine effuſions of a liberal mind, and the honourable teſtimony of a gentleman who, though an enemy from neceſſity, has, for the ſake of juſtice alone, paid the tribute which he thought due to Mr. Thomas's merits as a man and a ſoldier.

DEAR SIR,

I AM happy to learn, from the public prints, that we are ſoon to have the pleaſure of a life of the late George Thomas, from your pen; as he was a ſingular character, which deſerves to be reſcued from oblivion,

and as I was intimately acquainted with him, and was principally employed by General Perron, to perſuade him to enter with his troops into the ſervice of Scindia. Moreover being concerned in arranging the capitulation of Hanſi, after he had the misfortune to loſe his army, and in conducting him to the British frontier; if you think I can ſupply any facts, or offer any materials which might elucidate or add to the work, I ſhall be not only happy, but proud to contribute all in my power.

I had a ſincere reſpect for his character; I regretted his misfortunes, and I did all in my power to obviate those misfortunes by my advice and my conduct; all my influence with General Perron was exerted to ſerve him, and I did every thing in my power to meliorate the ſeverity of his misfortunes, after he had been unfortunate from the doubtful event of war; and I ſhould be happy if I could afford the ſmalleſt matter towards the record of his fame. With ſome oddities, and many ſingularities, he was an uncommon character; and his exertion towards ſtation, power, riches, and

glory, wee ſtill more uncommon; he was uncommonly ambitious, which was the principal cauſe that led to his ruin; he would be all or nothing. To ſerve under the orders of another was an inglorious dependance, in his eſtimation of things; and the diſtraction which then prevailed in Scindiah's government, offered an enticing field to diſplay his courage and his abilities; for courage he poſſeſſed in an eminent degree; and he certainly had abilities, if a clear head, a ſolid judgment, and acute diſcernment, may be called by that name. Hoping you will pardon this intruſion, and view it in the light in which it is intended, to add my mite to tranſmit the name of George Thomas to poſterity, ſuffer me to remain with eſteem,

Dear Sir,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

LEWIS F. SMITH.

Burhanpore,
18*th July*, 1803.

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